



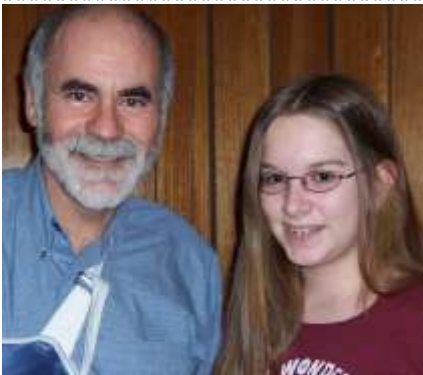
Our Mission is to Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ!

Volume 55, Issue 4

May 2006

WILLIAMSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Messenger



May 7 is Confirmation Sunday. Pictured above are the ten youth and their mentors who have studied, laughed and debated this past year in preparation for their confirmation, forming life-long bonds in the process. We celebrate their saying "Yes to Christ" and welcome the youth into membership of WUMC.

This Holy Mystery: *A Study of Holy Communion in the UMC*



Last month we focused on experiencing the mystery and the foundations and benefits of the richness of sacramental life. The following will conclude last month's focus and continue with how Christ is present calling each of us.

CHRIST IS HERE *Experiencing the Mystery*

We believe that:

- The Lord's Supper is anchored in the life of the historical Jesus of Nazareth.
- The elements are essential tangible means through which God works.
- The divine presence is in temporal (time) and relational (personal) terms.

In this meal, the past, present and future of the living Christ come together by the power of the Holy Spirit so that we may receive and embody Jesus Christ as God's saving gift for the whole world.

CHRIST IS HERE *Christ Is Calling YOU*

The INVITATION should be followed by

- A prayer of confession
- Words of assurance

This assures that people understand the table is OPEN, and that TRANSFORMATION is offered.

Baptism and Holy Communion:

Baptism is a NON-REPEATABLE rite of initiation into the Body of Christ. Baptism is to be followed by justifying faith and personal commitment to Christ (when one reaches the age of accountability).

The Lord's Supper is the regularly REPEATED or RE-PRESENTED celebration of communion of the body of Christ.

While all are welcome at the table, the sacrament was given for baptized disciples. Therefore when non-baptized persons join us at the table, we should invite them to consider Holy Baptism as soon as possible.

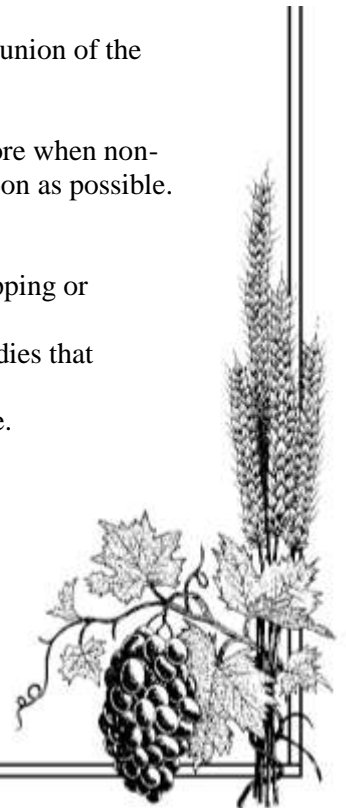
The Lord's Supper is:

- Open to all regardless of their understanding including children and people with handicapping or incapacitating conditions.
- Open to all Christians of any denomination since we recognize we are only one of the bodies that constitute the universal Body of Christ.
- Response to the invitation is always voluntary, no one should feel pressured to participate.

The issue of "Unworthiness".

Some United Methodists have refrained from Holy Communion based on the passage from Paul: "Whoever eat the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord." (1 Corinthians 11:27) This applies to the manner of celebrating Holy Communion and not to the state of the individual's soul.

- *More in June on this Holy Sacrament and our basic pattern of worship* -





The Pentecost Project

The Greek word “Pentecost” refers to the fiftieth day, defining the time after the season of Passover. It was on this day that the Jewish pilgrims celebrate the festival of the first fruits of the wheat harvest. On the fiftieth day following the resurrection of Jesus, during the Pentecost celebration, the disciples and followers of Christ were gathered together in an upper room where they had been in constant prayer awaiting the Advocate whom Jesus had promised. Suddenly the room was filled by a great wind, and the Holy Spirit descended upon them in the shape of tongues of fire. At that moment, the church was born, and the disciples became witnesses to the world for the love of God through Jesus Christ.

We continue to celebrate the feast of Pentecost each year, fifty days after Easter. This year I would like to suggest an idea I’ll call the “Pentecost Project”. Recalling that the disciples were praying together for fifty days before the coming of the Holy Spirit, I would like us to consider doing the same thing. We may not all be in the same room, but we can all be in the same frame of mind. This month’s messenger contains a special calendar running from May 1 to June 4. During these days I’m asking each of you to pray for empowerment of the Holy Spirit on our congregation. There is a prayer focus listed for each day, but you may add any concerns that come to mind. You set the time you pray, and how long you pray. Even one minute

a day will not go unanswered.

Three years ago I asked you to join me in a concerted effort of prayer for our congregation. Since that time, our congregation, programs, outreach, staff and finances have grown and been greatly blessed. We need the continued anointing and leading of the Holy Spirit if we are to fulfill our mission of “being and making disciples for Jesus Christ”. We can’t do that without growing in relationship with God, and that begins, and depends, on our prayer life. I hope you will join me in this commitment to prayer for the next month, and then – watch out! One never knows what God will do!

Blessings,
Rev. Gail Lewis

Open Door Nursery School Staff Honored for their Lay Ministry

Each year the Niagara Frontier District of the UMC presents awards to individuals or teams of lay people who have shown outstanding ministry. Every local congregation may make one nomination. This year, Williamsville UMC has nominated the staff of Open Door Nursery School for this award. With a history of over 35 years of operation and a collective 60 years of teaching experience in our nursery school, our staff is well deserving of this award. They will be honored as part of a celebration banquet at Samuel’s Grande Manor on May 21.

Editor’s Note: I’m pleased to be able to publish the following email from Rev. David Kell who brings an interesting historical perspective to the ODNS story.

I was browsing through the web site of previous churches that I have served and was so pleased to see that the Open Door Nursery School is still going at the Williamsville Church. It was started when I was the Minister of Education in 1969-73. I retired last year after 36 years of full time ministry. It is good to see some of my tracks from past travels. The Open Door Nursery was



established to provide an integrated experience for small children. At the time there were no integrated Nursery schools in the Williamsville area. Some of the Church parents wanted to break some barriers and be proactive for racial inclusiveness. The favorite name we settled on was "Open Door." I wish you many more years of service. - Rev. David Kell

The Service Board



EVERY MEMBER IN MINISTRY

..... Remember this?

We haven't forgotten and hope you haven't either. Our goal to fulfill our mission of "being and making disciples of Jesus Christ" involves ...you guessed it... **BEING INVOLVED!**

Many of you have already found your "ministry niche", but other of you are still looking. There are literally hundreds of possibilities here and beyond WUMC. Currently, the Leadership Discernment (formerly Nominations) Team is looking for a few good Christians. We may not know what your interests or talents are, but we'd sure like to hear from you. If there is an area where you'd like to serve, or if you are wondering what's available...or if there's something you'd like to do that we never thought of...let us know. You may call the office, one of the pastors, staff members or any Lay Leader (the names are listed on the back page of this Messenger.) We'd love to hear from you!

YOU ARE EXACTLY WHAT ASBURY SHALOM ZONE IS LOOKING FOR.

They need people of all sizes and shapes, of all interests and talents. If you might be able to offer a day once a month, a morning once a week, a weekend now and then, they've got a job you can do. For more information on all the various ways you can help, look in the narthex for the ASZ volunteer registration form.

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN A CHURCH MINISTRY BUT HAVE LIMITED TIME TO SPEND?

~ The Altar Guild would like your help! Typically, each member of the Altar Guild devotes approximately three hours a year checking the church altar on a Saturday to make sure the proper paraments (the fabrics on the altar) are in place for Sunday's service. In addition, we meet as a team twice a year, in December and in June, to select the Saturday dates that work best for everyone on the team.

Although little time is required, this is an important and visible church ministry and provides us an opportunity to become closer to one another in faith. If you are interested in joining and/or learning more about the Altar Guild, please contact Joyce Champ.

WORK CREW PROJECTS

Camp Asbury has designated Saturday, May 6 and Saturday, May 13 as dates that we would like to invite Adult and older Youth Work Crews to come to Camp Asbury and help work on projects at our camp site. We will start at 9:00 AM and gather at the Maintenance Building, but individuals and groups are welcome to come when available that morning. If you would be interested in coming to participate in these Work Days, please contact the camp office at 585-237-5262, and ask for Larry.

Here are some of the projects we would like to work on, not all will be able to be done on these days, but are projects that are on our list: cut trees, clear brush; archery range; fire circles; steps at waterfront; gas tanks enclosure; garbage dumpster enclosure; create designated parking areas; build new wood shed; paint & scrape Buell cottage; create new outdoor chapel area; walkway around north end of Willmott; big cedar - stairs at back door; south end and east side fence; clean up area around maintenance bldg.; stairway to office; steps on north side of Willmott deck.

COULD GRANT WRITING BE YOUR MINISTRY? Please contact Rev. Gail Lewis for details.

RUN FOR LEUKEMIA

On June 4, 2006, Jay Hagadorn will join a team of people from the WNY region who will run the Rock 'n Roll Marathon in San Diego, California for a reason much more important than the personal challenge of completing 26.2 miles. As a member of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training Program, he will run this event to assist the organization in their efforts to conquer leukemia, the leading cause of death among children ages 1 through 14. Jay is dedicated to finding a cure for leukemia, lymphoma and all blood related cancers. Any contribution, regardless of size would be appreciated to make his efforts successful. 100% of the money raised will be donated to the Leukemia Society to help in blood cancer research, local patient aid, community services and professional education.

You can follow Jay's progress and contribute on his web site. <http://www.active.com/donate/tntwnyfl/jayh> Please keep him in your prayers.





Stewards of God's Creation

"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 2:4-5, NRSV)

The people in Philippi are struggling because Paul has been imprisoned for his beliefs. Paul seeks to encourage and to reassure them that his joy and confidence are undiminished, even under his present circumstances. Paul wants the people to stand fast in their faith by standing together and looking after one another. It is easy for us to focus on ourselves when we feel defeated or inferior to others. It is our humanness that compels us to compare our life with other lives. Paul reminds us that we will find blessings and joy for ourselves by reaching out to others.

Activity:

The springtime of the year brings many opportunities to see new life in God's creation. It also reminds us of

our responsibility to care for the environment and all of God's creation. Many people in our church families are unable to care for their yards during the spring and summer.

Contact the church office or speak to Barbara Saltarella and find those who may be physically unable to care for their garden, trees, or yards. Extend beyond the homebound and the elderly. Remember the single parent, the recently widowed, the person with allergies, the young person with limited gardening ability. Offer to have your family regularly help people with their outdoor work. By being a steward of God's creation, you will bring joy to others as they enjoy gazing into their backyard. You can alleviate a burden that is piled on an already overwhelmed single parent. You will sense a closer relationship with people in your church family. You will be drawn closer together as a family by helping others. You will be closer to God by sharing your talent with someone in different circumstances.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to see the needs of others. Help me to be aware of the joy that I can share by stepping out in faith to help others. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen

Discussion Questions:

What are some ways that you compare yourself to others? How can you overcome making these comparisons? Were people surprised by your offer to be a steward of their yards? In what ways did helping others bring a blessing to your own personal life?

- By Ruth M. Blum

*Ruth M. Blum is an ordained United Methodist Deacon who serves as Associate Pastor of Children and Families at Dove of the Desert United Methodist Church in Glendale, Arizona. You may contact Ruth by e-mail at .ruthblum@qwest.net
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Employment Opportunity In the Crib Room

We want to let everyone know that Stacy Maybee has resigned from her position in the crib room as of May 25. While we are sad to lose her, we are excited for her as she pursues other passions. Not only will she be going back to school to further her career with People, Inc., she's also becoming involved with the Lothlorien therapeutic riding school. This will allow her to combine her love of horses with her overwhelming compassion for those with special needs. Our loss is very definitely their gain! Please join us in wishing Stacy great blessings in her new ventures!

If anyone's interested in applying for Stacy's position in the crib room, please let Judy Toone know.



Mother's Day Gift Idea

It's that time of the year again when we acknowledge all our mom's do for us all year long. We thought we'd make it easy on you for those who are looking for a unique, special gift without having to deal with the mall! There are a few extra pins for sale from the very successful "Changing the World One Pin at a Time" fund raiser. For those of you who missed it before, the extra pins are on display in the glass cabinet in the parlor. The sale of these pins not only benefit charities near and dear to many of us, but our own Education program as well. Anyone interested in purchasing one can contact Linda Sheriff or see Judy Toone. With Mother's Day coming up these would make the perfect gift!

Leaping Llamas! We Couldn't Have Done It Without You

Llamas actually do love to outclimb each other! Our deepest thanks to Dr. Roger Ellis for educating us all on what Heifer International is doing to help families in need across the world through their gifts of animals. I can't imagine having to decide which was more valuable, the life of a child vs. the life of a water buffalo if you only had enough medicine to save one. Unfortunately we sometimes need the Dr. Ellis's to remind us how very blessed we are and how much we really have to share with others. Thanks to all of you for embracing our "Buying a Llama" project with such compassion! Extra thanks to Calvin Eichhorn for his creatively artistic Heifer bulletin board, to Scott Aloisio who spent days creating our adorable origami llamas and to Joanna Ostroot who drew our fabulously handsome llama we're all gluing our cotton balls on! Your enthusiastic help has made the "Buying the Llama" project special and a huge success!



A HUGE THANK YOU!

Thanks so much to all who helped make our Lenten Fair such a huge success! Special events like this can only be done with the help of many, so whether you saved egg cartons, manned a station, scouted for items or made crowned thorn wreaths out of twist ties (Karen Longs creative genius!), we are ever so grateful for your help! It was so much fun watching the children create tombs out of snowball cookie cakes, do the Jelly Bean prayer, make their Resurrection Eggs and even try their hand at tracing a Labyrinth. I was so impressed with how quickly everyone learned to make palm crosses! What a wonderful way to celebrate our faith together!

BIG THANKS TO OUR STAR PERFORMERS OF "THE LITTLEST DONKEY"

Our exceptional narrators were Julia Hagadorn, Drew Wishman and Carly Seiler. The leading role of Dusty, was played by our very talented MaryClare Hagadorn. Our rooster was enthusiastically played by Mark Ransbottom. The adorable mice were played by Maxine Wishman and Kyra Schmidt. The cutest cat in the stable was played by Meredith Wattle. And last, but certainly not least, Dusty's best friend the dog, was played so expertly by Sydney Schmidt. Behind every play is an amazing director, so special thanks go out to Barbara Tschamler for all her hard work and patience! A standing ovation to you all!!!

JR. HIGH NEWS

CALLING ALL COUCHES!

The Jr. High has started to redecorate their classroom. However, they are in desperate need of a gently used couch or two, since the one that's in there now has seen better days many times over! If anyone would like to donate a couch, the cushier the better, please contact Judy Toone. Thanks!

Saturday, May 20 will be the Jr. High's visit to Little Portions Friary from 10:30 AM -1:30 PM. If you're interested in lending some extra helping hands at the homeless shelter that day, please contact either the Hagadorns or the Truesdells.

Have You Made Your Summer Plans Yet?

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Back by popular demand is our summer Vacation Bible School, being held June 26 through June 29 from 6:30-8:30 PM. It's time to start planning and recruiting. This year's VBS will be held at the air-conditioned St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The event is co-sponsored by St. Paul's, Faith UCC and Williamsville UMC. The theme this year is *Moses Leads Us*.

Positions are now available in the following areas: group leaders, crafts, music, kitchen, drama, tent making, carpenter and registration. What a wonderful way to meet other dedicated church folk. Tell your family and friends to save the dates!

IMPORTANT - There will be another planning meeting at St. Paul's for all interested volunteers on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 PM. Please come and meet the folks from Faith United Church of Christ and St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Our vision is to work as a team, but that only happens with your help! Please see Judy Toone for additional information and directions if needed.

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP!

This year, why not send your child to Camp Asbury or Camp Findley, both of which are United Methodist Camps? Your children will receive the same wonderful camping skills they would elsewhere, such as swimming, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing and archery, in an environment where they learn to be sensitive to the needs of others, learn how to help each other and live their faith each day! All those benefits for such a reasonable price! Camp brochures, registration forms and additional info are currently available. See Judy Toone or call 634-4800 for more information. Scholarships are available so please take advantage of this great opportunity.



Believe it or not, our last day of Sunday school, May 21, is rapidly approaching! Children and youth will be start the morning by meeting in their regular classrooms at 9:45 AM. After a brief lesson time with their teachers they'll meet their new classmates for next fall, followed by the ever popular "Make Your Own Sundae" celebration in Fillmore Hall. So, get your spoons ready, mark your calendars and join us for this yummy way to celebrate another wonderful year together!

ATTENTION SENIOR HIGH

Camps Asbury and Findley are currently accepting applications for their Counselor-In-Training ministry program for their summer camps. Youth ages 16-17 are encouraged to consider volunteering as a Junior Counselor at one of our summer camps this year. This is a perfect way to not only develop leadership skills, but it looks great on those college applications!!! Feel free to call Judy Toone at 634-4800 for further details.

LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR GRADUATE

If anyone from your family graduates from high school, college or receives an advanced degree this year, please let the church office know. Call 634-4800 and leave a message. Let us know who's graduating, from where, with what degree and any academic honors or achievements you'd like us to mention. (High school seniors let us know where you'll be in the fall if you've decided.) Information can also be emailed to wumc@williamsvilleumc.org. We would like to publish the news in the June Messenger and help celebrate their achievement. Please submit your information by Monday, May 22.



LAB SCHOOL AT JUMONVILLE: July 16 - 21

Lab School is a wonderful teacher training experience where you learn new and creative ways to teach the age group of your choice, and then practice those teaching methods on real students. It is an amazing chance to recharge your batteries and renew your enthusiasm for teaching. Lab school is open to new and experienced teachers who want to improve their teaching skills. Participants are divided into sessions according to ages taught. This year labs will be held for Young Children, Younger Elementary, Older Elementary, Youth and Adults. As one who's taken their children to Jumonville numerous times for Lab School, I can tell you it's so much more than just learning teaching skills. It's a week of spiritual refreshment, fun-filled activities and bonding with children in one of the most picturesque areas of Pennsylvania. If anyone's interested in attending, please let me know. There are district scholarships available so don't ever let the cost stop you from attending. Jumonville does have the distinction of being the last of it's kind in the country. That makes us extra fortunate to have such a valuable asset right in our backyard, so please consider making this one of your summer adventures this year!

Methodists in Fellowship

CHURCH FAMILY



PICNIC

FAMILY REUNION FAMILY REUNION

The word is out and the so are our visitors. If you have not been contacted yet, don't give up hope. We have over 750 members and friends and only about 35 teams of people. We'll try to get as many as possible visited by the end of June.

Then we'll pick up again and try to meet all the rest of you. But in the meantime**DON'T FORGET THE FAMILY REUNION PICNIC ON JUNE 25 ON THE FRONT LAWN** following the 10 AM service. Bring your family to join our faith family. Food, fun, music, games for the kids and lots of great fellowship. More information in the June Messenger!

DORCAS CIRCLE will meet on Thursday, May 11 at 10:30 AM in the church parlor. Bring your items for Haven House.

All are welcome to join the **PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY** on Tuesday, May 16 at 1:00 PM in the Club Room at Asbury Pointe, 50 Stahl Road in Getzville. Our topic for the day is *He Saw Esau* taken from the text of Genesis 33: 35-.6

SPRING PLANS FOR THE BOOK CLUB

On Friday, May 19 our book discussion group will meet at the home of Karen & Jon Patterson at 7:30 PM. We'll be talking about the book "Founding Brothers" by Joseph Ellis. All are invited to attend.

DON'T FORGET YOUR POSIES

Many thanks to everyone who ordered plants from our annual flower sale. Orders will be ready for pick up at church on Saturday, May 20 from 9:00 AM to 4:00

PM. Please contact Bonnie Hazlett if you need to make alternative arrangements for picking up your plants.



WE'RE SERVING CHIAVETTA'S BBQ JUNE 3 Plan on letting us do the cooking on Saturday, June 3 because we're heating up the briquettes to barbeque some of those delicious Chiavettas Chicken. We'll be selling complete dinners from 4:00-7:30 (or until the chickens are gone)!

As always this will be a lively event and to make it successful we'll need many helpers. We're looking for both folks who will help prepare and serve the food, and those who buy tickets and come eat! Ed Howard will have sign-up sheets in the narthex in the weeks leading up to the event. We'll need people to put food on plates, prepare tasty desserts, sell tickets, wave signs on Main Street, keep the Fellowship Hall clean, and much more. If you have recently joined the church and are looking for a way to meet new people, working on the BBQ is a great idea!!! We can't wait to dig into some of that wonderfully barbequed chicken, cole slaw and potato salad. Oh yes, and who can forget our groaning board of the tastiest homemade desserts ever. Proceeds from the BBQ go toward the general operating budget of the church. Please support the event by signing up to work if you can and coming to enjoy a great dinner!

Holland International Speedway will host the **FOURTH ANNUAL FASTER PASTOR RACE** on Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day) with races beginning at 5:15 PM.



Would you like to cheer on some United Methodist Pastors (possibly one serving the Williamsville church) as they race on the high banks of Holland Speedway? This special fund raiser is your chance to cheer on your favorite pastor. In the past, everyone who participated thoroughly enjoyed the event and fellowship Many churches formed cheering groups with banners and shirts. Tickets are on sale now in the church narthex.

JOIN OUR WEEKLY EXERCISE CLASSES

A free exercise class designed for Seniors is held at WUMC every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 to 2:30 PM in Fillmore Hall. Claudia Fries leads the class and she would be happy to answer your questions. Make plans to add regular exercise to your life and feel better.



The Caring Corner

LET ME TAKE YOU ON A JOURNEY

It was Saturday March 25 and it was the beginning of a journey for three women from our church. Wendy Mckee, Jean Hagensick and myself were meeting at the First Trinity Lutheran Church on Niagara Falls Blvd for a workshop on Stephen Ministry.

What is Stephen Ministry and what do Stephen Ministers do?

Stephen Ministry is a ministry where trained and supervised lay persons, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges or difficulties. Stephen Ministers are caring Christian friends who listen, understand, accept, and pray for and with care receivers who are working through a crisis or a tough time. Their role is to listen and care – not to give advice or counsel. Stephen Ministers are also trained to recognize when a care receivers' need exceeds what they can provide. When that happens they work to help care receivers get the level of care they really need.

The minute we walked through the door at First Trinity Lutheran we could feel the vitality, warmth, caring and above all community of the Church and they made us feel welcomed. There were people from all denominations and some had traveled six hours, just to hear about Stephens Ministry.

As the three of us sat at one of the tables and the presentation started we knew we were supposed to be there. The presenter was wonderful, knowledgeable, professional and we could tell, just by listening to him, his heart was in every word.

During one of the breaks the three of us talked about how this ministry would be a wonderful addition to our existing ministry. Our member care ministry has come a long way, but the Stephens Ministry would give us a solid education in caring for our congregation.

Our journey is just beginning.

We'll continue with more next month.

Peace and Blessings to all,
Barbara Saltarella

THE SOUND OF SUPPORT

Laughter. Laughter? I walk into the room where the Gynecological Cancer Support Group meets. Inside I find a small, obviously close-knit group of women. Nervously, I pass my hand over my bald head and find a seat. Immediately, I am greeted with smiles, hugs and nods of encouragement. I wondered to myself what I had been so afraid of, why I had waited until my chemotherapy was complete to come to my first meeting. During those two hours I shared my story, learned more about the disease, and eagerly listened to the wisdom of those brave women who started walking this path before me. I remember looking around the room at these beautiful women, these strong survivors, and for the first time since my diagnosis, I did not feel alone.

The Gynecological Cancer Support Group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the WUMC library. For two precious hours, women who have been affected by cancer come together to share their fears, ask about treatment side effects and discuss the latest developments towards a cure. Most importantly, however, these women find the love and strength in themselves and in each other to celebrate and greet life with joyous laughter.

Perhaps cancer has touched your life, or the life of someone you love. Maybe you've just been diagnosed or have had a recurrence and feel lost and scared. Perhaps you are a cancer survivor and would like to lend support to others. If so, come join us – we look forward to meeting you. - *Kathianne Komurek*

Marilyn Green, who did such a lovely job leading our Medicare D workshops, offers the following **Important Telephone Numbers and Web Sites** for those seeking help and information when selecting their level of coverage.

Coordinated Care 858-2307

EPIC Hotline 1-800-332-3742

Erie County Department of Senior Services: Local HIICAP
Office 858-7883

HIICAP State Office: 1-800-333-4114

Medicare: 1-800-MEDICARE or 1-800-633-4227, say
“Agent” at the voice prompt or see www.medicare.gov

Medicare Rights Organization: www.medicarerights.org

Our Health Ministry



Sometimes reading is a great way to enhance our mental health. I was exploring WUMC's library and came across some of my favorite authors – Kevin Lemman has been helpful to me in my mother career. Plus, Kevin grew up in Amherst and references WNY in his book "The New Birth Order Book." Kinda fun. - *Shelley Kayne*

May is "awareness" month at WUMC. Pick a topic you want to learn more about and check out these web sites:

National Women's Health Week / Month:
Office on Women's Health www.4woman.gov

National Stuttering Awareness Week / Month:
Stuttering Foundation of America www.stutteringhelp.org

Bike to Work Week: **League of American Bicyclists**
www.biketoworkweek.com

Tinnitus Awareness Week / Month ("ringing in the ears" 24/7):
American Tinnitus Association www.ata.org

Schizophrenia Awareness Week / Month:
National Schizophrenia Foundation www.NSFoundation.org

More web sites that may be helpful:

Arthritis Foundation www.arthritis.org

Better Sleep Council www.bettersleep.org

National Heart Lung and Blood Institute
Heath Information Center www.nhlbi.nih.gov

National Eye Institute www.healthyvision2010.org/hvm/

Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
www.ffcmh.org

Freedom From Fear - anxiety disorders
www.freedomfromfear.org

North American Brain Tumor Coalition
www.nabraintumor.org/events.html

American Academy of Dermatology www.aad.org

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc.
www.ncadd.org

Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network
www.foodallergy.org

The Neuropathy Association, Inc. www.neuropathy.org

Upstate New York Transplant Services, Inc. www.unyts.org

Maybe you're one who likes to browse the web. I logged onto the following websites and found all of them to have valuable information. Here's a preview:

•**Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America** www.aafa.org This site includes information about flu shots. It has books for sale and asks for donations.

•**Celiac Sprue Association / USA**
www.csaceliacs.org This sites describes the disorder along with the genetics involvement. It reviews the foods to avoid and has reference material. There is also a section for children that I found attractive and colorful.

•**Administration on Aging** www.aoa.gov
This has all kinds of information, including the "You Can" program and partnership.

•**National Mental Health Association**
www.nmha.org This site has a crisis hotline link. Free booklets are available. They include legislative information and reiterates that mental illness can effect all ages at anytime of the life cycle.

•**American Trauma Society**
www.amtrauma.org This site has special interest to me since Chris' fall from a roof. It had a patient narrative describing his recovery from a terrible fall. It's a testament to the resilience of our bodies and then living with the handicaps afterwards.

•**American Cancer Society**
www.cancer.org This site has TONS of information on every cancer issue.

The Gift of Music



MEGAN PROKES

Megan began playing the violin when she was four year old. She was a part of the Buffalo Suzuki Stings program until she graduated from high

school in 2002, studying first with Alice Keith Knowles and later with Mary Cay Neil. While in BBS she participated in tours to the Southeastern United States, Chile and Peru, England and Ireland, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is currently a senior at Carnegie Mellon University as a student of Cyrus Forough.

Megan has twice been a finalist in the Carnegie Mellon Concerto Competition, a competition open to students of all levels and degree programs. She performed the Stravinsky Violin Concerto in this competition during her sophomore year, and the Menotti Violin Concerto during her junior year. Since beginning college, Megan has twice attended the Meadowmount School of Music, once in Mr. Forough's studio and once as a viola student of Patricia McCarty. Megan has also attended the Academie Internationale de Musique de Montpellier in France. Megan will receive her Bachelor of Arts in violin performance the May, and will continue her studies with Mr. Forough as a graduate student at Carnegie Mellon in the fall.

TÉA PROKES

Téa began violin lessons at the age of four with Alice Keith Knowles and continued with Mary Cay Neal. Téa was a very active member of Buffalo Suzuki Stings. In addition to tours to England and Ireland, Minneapolis and Brazil, she assisted and taught repertoire classes. Along with her sister, Téa has performed with the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra, the Clarence Summer Orchestra, and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. She has soloed with the Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra and the Symphony Orchestra of Espirito Santo in Victoria, Brazil. Téa is currently a sophomore at Boston University where she studies with Peter Zazofsky of the Muir Sting Quartet. She is double majoring in violin performance and music education.

Your Shared Ministry Dollars at Work—*The Conference Archives*

The Conference Archives and History Commission is a committee required by the United Methodist Discipline. The duty of the Commission is to collect and preserve the historically significant records of the Annual Conference and its agencies including data relating to the origin and history of the conference. They are also required to encourage and assist local churches in preserving their records, compiling their history and provide for the permanent safe-keeping of the historical records of discontinued churches. The physical location of the Archives is at the Conference office at 131 John Muir Drive, Amherst NY. There are many interesting artifacts housed in the center in addition to the many documents and journals. Read on to learn of the Commission's most recent efforts.

The past year has been one of steady activity for the Archives and History commission. As always, there have been numerous requests

from individuals for information on baptisms and weddings and other family history from the records of our conference churches that have closed. Other requests have come for information about former pastors and conference history, as many churches prepare for significant anniversaries. As always, we are able to meet some requests easily, some require extensive work, and for some, we just do not have the records necessary to meet the request. When there is a project that requires more time than the volunteer members of the commission can put in, we enlist persons who are willing to work for hourly pay, paid by the person seeking information. Often these are genealogical requests from professional genealogists. We are always looking for persons willing to do this work. We are also looking for persons who would be willing to do data entry, as we attempt to get some of the records on computer.

A sad but important task is the preservation of records of churches that have closed. As we receive this material, we are reminded how important it is for all churches to preserve and keep track of their records, not only of marriages and baptisms, which are legal records, but also minutes of Administrative Board/Council, which tell the story of the day-to-day, month-to-month life of the church. These are as important for history as the records of the "big events."

The people of the WNY Conference are encouraged to make use of the archives, located on the lower level of the Conference Center. In addition to the records of churches that have closed, we also have artifacts, pictures, historic books, biographies, numerous periodicals, and the journals from all years of all the Conferences of which this geographic area was once a part. We solicit from our active local churches the narrative histories that are prepared from time to time for anniversaries and other significant events.

BABIES BORN

Jack and Lynne Stevens became grandparents on April 5, 2006 when their son and his wife, Bart and Jessica Stevens, gave birth to Drew Kristopher Stevens at 12:03 PM, weighing in at 7 pounds 8 ounces in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Congratulations to Greg and Wendy Fortune on the birth of Matthew Fitzgerald Fortune who arrived March 29.

LOVE NOTES

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your love, support, and prayers during my dad's stay in the hospital and my granddaughter's surgery. We appreciate your concern and thank God for our church family.
Love, *Bill and Sally Heim*

Dear Friends in Christ,
Thank you for your gift. Your faithfulness is a true blessing to us. We pray you had a blessed Easter, rejoicing in worshipping a risen Savior.

In Christ,
Connie Setlock and the Seneca Street UMC family

Dear Friends,
Your congregation's generous gift to the children and families we serve is greatly appreciated. I want to express my sincere gratitude for your gift of \$500.

Please express my gratitude to your congregation. Let them know by sharing their resources they impact the lives of needy children and troubled teens. Their financial support may enable a child with special needs to attend therapeutic preschool, a troubled teen with behavioral or social difficulties to succeed in school or a young adult with learning disabilities to learn life skills.

The care and concerns of our church family make a difference in the lives of the 750 children, youth and families we serve every day. Thank you for your faithful support.

Gratefully in Christ,
James M. Sampson
President, Gateway-Longview, Inc.



PRAYER CHAIN

Church family and friends may request special prayers through the Prayer Chain. Please call Bob or Irene Hayman to place your request.

If you have a pastoral need, please call the church office (634-4800) and leave a message. You may also call Rev. Lewis or Pastor Bennett and talk to them directly.

The church office is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Our Staff and Lay Leaders Are Here to Help You
Lead Pastor: Gail Lewis
Associate Pastor: Daryl Bennett
Directors of Music: Judith Stafford and Wendy Amuso
Director of Christian Education: Judith Toone
Pastoral Assistant for Visitation: Barbara Saltarella
Seminary Intern & Disability Advocate: Chris Wylie
Church Administrator: Michele Grammer
Custodian: Mary Ann Horey Housekeeping: Donna Seiler
Sunday Nursery Care: Stacy Maybee,
Amanda Dickerman and Megan Beck

Coordinating Lay Leader: Neil Kratzer
Communication Ministry: Chris Wylie
Family Life Ministry: Linda Sheriff
Member Care Ministry: Barbara Saltarella
Outreach & Missions Ministry: Kevin Lyttle
Relational Ministries: Donna & Charles Seiler
Worship Ministries: Wendy Fortune
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Chair: James Jones
Trustee Chair: John Tschamler
Stewardship & Finance Chair: Rosemary Elliott
Treasurer: Lori Pacer