



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

Williamsville United Methodist Church
The Methodist Messenger

From Your Pastors

To all of you whose witness and ministry contribute so much to the vitality of Williamsville United Methodist Church, I extend my warmest greetings.

Succession of leadership has been part of the church's life since the earliest witness of our scriptures. "I planted, Apollos watered," Paul wrote of the first transition of leaders in the Corinthian church, identifying both himself and his successor as "God's servants, working together" for the common purpose of serving the church, (1 Cor. 3:6-9). Now another transition is under way at WUMC.

My first feelings are of gratitude for all that has led to this moment and for the many people, both pastors and lay persons, who for generations have been good stewards of the gospel in this place. Especially I am grateful for Daryl's, Gail's, and John's ministry as your most recent pastors. Here God has sown good seed in good soil, and it is bearing abundant fruit. With all of you, I look forward to continuing its harvest.

In a way that is always just beyond our understanding, I believe God is bringing us together – all of you, Nick Perry, and me – so that we can know God and make God known in a particular way in this time and place. As Nick and I join you in ministry, please keep the congregation in your prayers, that we may harvest the ripe opportunities of this transition. Pray for Nick and me, also, that we may be faithful in all God is giving us to do. Together may we all be present, attentive, and responsive to God, who will be our guide in our journey.

Now is a good time to recall that, "the Lord is our God and we are the people of God's pasture, the flock led by God's hand." (Psalm 95:7) God continues to lead us to good pasture at WUMC so that we may have life, more and better life than we ever dreamed of having. In our prayers through the weeks ahead, let's listen together to God's voice and to what it says to us of how the hope of the ages is fulfilled in our hearing.

Yours in faith,

Pastor Rick

From Your Pastors

Brief Sketch of Our New Associate Pastor

Nicholas Perry, who has been appointed to WUMC as an associate pastor, comes to us from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas where he has been working on his Master's of Divinity since 2006. During Nick's first year at WUMC, he will complete requirements for this degree, with an expected graduation date of May 2010. While studying at Perkins School of Theology, Nick served as a student pastor at the St. Andrews and Murvaul United Methodist Churches in Carthage, Texas since 2008.

Moving to the Buffalo area will be a little like coming home for Nick since he is originally from WNY. After graduating from LaSalle High School in Niagara Fall, NY in 1999, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Philosophy at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester in 2003. While attending college, Nick worked as a meat clerk and baker at Wegmans. He also served as youth director at St. James UMC in Niagara Falls from 2003-2006. In his spare time, Nick enjoys Bible studies,

team sports, and various types of exercise such as running, biking, and weight lifting.

Nick and his wife Carmen will live in the parsonage

located behind the church parking lot. Carmen, who is originally from San Antonio, Texas, is also completing requirements to receive her Master's of Divinity from Perkins School of Theology. Carmen will be working with Rev. Mary Champ Kelly and one other pastor to serve three congregations in the Buffalo area: University UMC, Cleveland Hill UMC, and Central Park UMC. Be sure to introduce yourself to Carmen if you see her coming and going from the parsonage.

To echo Rev. John's encouragement included in the June issue of *The Messenger*, let's give Pastor Nick a warm welcome to WUMC! Consider inviting them to your home for dinner, stop by the office to introduce yourself, or bring them a homemade pie or some cookies.



Events and Dates to Remember

- July 23 – 25 2009 School of Christian Mission
- Friday, August 14 Book Club "Potluck and Pick-a-Book Picnic" at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Carol and Roger Forden
- Sunday, September 13 Rally Day, Last day of summer worship at 10:00am
- Sunday, September 20 9:00 and 11:00 Sunday worship services and Sunday School resume
- September 11 – 12 Annual WUMC Women's Retreat at Stella Niagara

WUMC Leadership and District Conference Updates

200th Session of the Annual Conference: Observations

It was Friday morning, June 19, and I had just arrived at the Adams Mark Hotel in downtown Buffalo for the beginning of annual conference. This being my first time to attend the conference, I was not sure what to expect. I approached the registration table, received my packet, and headed for the assembly area in the main ballroom. The assembly room was set up with a stage on one end, flanked by large screens on either side, and rows of tables and chairs set-up to accommodate about 700 members of annual conference.

The first session began at 9:00 a.m. and was for the laity only. Scott Johnson, Conference Lay Leader, presided over the session. The theme of the session focused on the results UMC is experiencing because of our attentiveness to what goes on inside the walls of our church buildings. The declining number of members over the past 50 years is the result of this inward focus. This became a recurring theme for the entire conference session.

Survey Results of Local Congregations

The Board of Laity has surveyed local congregations and found the following:

- Most local churches felt they had experienced spiritual growth over the past year.
- Local churches felt that on average, 30% of their membership were engaged in ministry to others.
- There was little response to the question of what percentage of regular attendees might have witnessed during the past year or what percentage of regular attendees invited someone to church over the past year.
- Local churches felt that about 60% of members were using their spiritual gifts.
- About 52% of the local churches saw an increase in giving from the previous year.

The Board of Laity stressed that we need to own the fact that we must witness beyond the walls of our church. The issue we face is not one of decline, but what we are called by God to do. We must manifest ourselves by being in ministry to others.

“What is Our Mission?”

After the laity session, the entire body convened for the opening worship service, led by our Bishop, Marcus Matthews. Bishop Matthews’s sermon titled “What is Our Mission?” followed the theme raised during the laity session.

Bishop Matthews encouraged all of us to step out of our comfort zone in order to grow spiritually. By

telling our story of how God came into our lives, by bringing souls to Christ, and by changing our focus from the internal issues that consume us to the needs of the community around us, we will grow spiritually as well as in numbers. Bishop Matthews stressed the importance of the local church providing support, encouragement, strength, and purpose for its members and community. It is important for each church member to be engaged in prayer, and for the church to provide a time for us to “come together and love the hell out of each other.” For by doing this we can move each other from whatever troubling influence we may be experiencing to the Hope that Gods provides.

Interesting UMC Facts

The balance of the morning and afternoon was spent hearing and receiving the various conference committee reports. Here are some interesting facts presented in some of the sessions:

- Our denomination is experiencing tremendous growth in various parts of the world outside the United States.
- The average age of our membership in the U.S. is 57.
- We are not effectively reaching youth and young adults – they represent only 4.6% of our membership.
- U.S. membership has declined by over 8 million since the 1930s.
- There are currently 850 elders under the age of 35. In 1985, this number was 3,402.
- We have lost members every year for the last 40 years.
- There are twice as many women active in the UMC as men.
- While giving has shown an increase every year for the past 15 years, the number of givers is declining.
- In 2004, 42% of local congregations did not take in a single member by profession of faith.
- The United States of America is the third largest mission field in the world, as measured by the percentage of people not attending church.



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WUMC Leadership and District Conference Updates

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We profess that the UMC has Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds – the communities around us are looking for us to prove it. We need to return to John Wesley’s focus of being committed to the transformation of society. The UMC has identified the following four major areas where we need to focus our efforts:

1. Develop Leaders
2. Create New Places for People
3. Eliminate Poverty
4. Improve Health Globally

“Rethink Church” Campaign

As a local church, we must determine how we will live out the vision of John Wesley’s principles of do no harm, do good, and love God in the context of these four focus areas. The UMC has started a campaign of “What if we RE-THINK CHURCH?” “What if church weren’t just a place we go, but something we do?” Rethinking church is about taking action. It is a wake-up call reminding us of the many needs of human beings, whether they are in our own backyard or around the world. It is a call to action for all United Methodists to become involved together in a world bigger than one individual’s reach. A new generation of seekers and believers is yearning for something more, something deeper, and something relevant. This new generation believes that actions speak louder than words.

Willing To Do What God Wants?

The evening session was a Bible study lead by Bishop Paul Leeland of the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Bishop Leeland posed the question “Are we willing to do what God wants us to do, or to do what we want to do?” He recited the following poem:

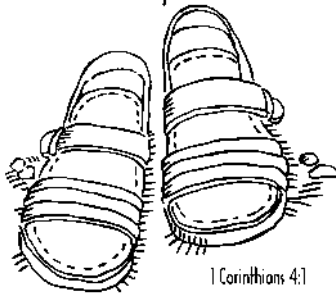
*As the covered wagon rolled and pitched
Along the prairie track,
One sat looking forward and one sat looking back.
One searched the wide horizon for a bright and better day;
And, one saw the disappointing road
‘Til it too slipped away.
As the covered wagon rolled and pitched along the
prairie track
One sat looking forward and one sat looking back.*

Author Unknown

That is really the question, isn’t it? What shape is the lens we use to look at our United Methodist ministry? He went on to share his hope and desire for our ministry:

- We will affirm the **Spirit of God** dwells in our people; not in our programs and church facilities.

Think of us in this way,
as servants of Christ
and stewards of
God’s mysteries.



- That **Every Congregation** can be a healthier, evangelistic, and missional church regardless of size.

- That we can fulfill the Great Commission by starting **new churches**.

- That we can fulfill the Great Commission by starting **new faith communities** in areas where there has been no Christian presence or witness.

- That we can change the role of our conference staff and district superintendents to **claim every soul** within the bounds of their district for Jesus Christ.

Bishop Leeland went on to say, “We are beginning our 225th Annual Conference in North America. What kind of future there will be for United Methodists depends on how early we are willing to get up in the morning, how willing we are to Model and Teach the General Rules reflecting Christ’s Love among us, and how serious we are about ministering and not just being ministered to. As we quietly slip past Milepost 225, we can take great pride in our acquisition of property and erection of buildings – including hospitals, clinics, retirement homes, children’s homes, and conference camps. But these things are not the church. What we need are people to match our buildings, a vision to match the height of our highest steeples, a harmony of purpose to match the superb music of our congregations, a ministry as strategic as our location, and a love as broad and inclusive as the heart of God.”

*“You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High;
For you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation
By the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God
The dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”*

Luke 1: 76-79

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Family Life News



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Heritage of Hope

Day two of the annual conference, June 20, was spent receiving reports from the district superintendents, voting on proposed changes to the Constitution of the UMC, and a report from the New ACT team members. The New ACT team is responsible for much of the preliminary planning that has gone on regarding the merger of the four existing conferences of Western NY, North Central, Wyoming, and Troy into the Upper New York conference. This merger will take place in July 2010. For more information about the merger or to keep abreast of the conference proceedings, log on to www.newconferences.info and www.uppernewyork.org. One of the most moving events at the annual conference was the "Celebrating a Heritage of Hope" service, which celebrated the life and ministry of clergy and their spouses who passed away since the last annual confer-

ence. It was truly an honor to be part of this service, which celebrated the commitment these individuals had to "tending of the flock" as they spread God's love and the message of hope.

After dinner, there was a time of "Telling the Story of the WNY Conference," which was a history lesson of sorts. It was interesting to learn about the past 200 years including how our conference was established and how it has changed over the years.

Attending the Annual Conference was an interesting and rewarding experience. The foundations of our denomination are strong, but there is much work to do. In John Wesley's sermon titled "The Character of a Methodist," he defined a Methodist as one who has "the love of God shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Spirit given unto him," and who "loves the Lord his God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his mind, and with all his strength." Let us take that character out into our community and world and be a light to all who might seek to find the love of God.

~ Dave Reichard
Coordinating Lay Leader

Renovated Parsonage

By the time you read this article, Phase I of our parsonage renovation project will be complete, and Nick and Carmen Perry should have moved into the parsonage. Thank you to everyone who helped with this big job! Getting the house in shape for them included completing the following tasks:

- Install new roof over the sunroom
- Boost attic insulation from R-9 to R-40
- Remove stained wallpaper in the living room and downstairs/upstairs hallways
- Open up bathroom pipes that wouldn't drain properly
- Repair and spackle cracks in the plaster walls and ceilings, some ¾" wide!
- Unclog the laundry chute (see sidebar)
- Install new floor in the kitchen
- Build new and recondition existing kitchen cabinets
- Scrape and sand all baseboards, window frames, and door frames
- Paint every ceiling
- Paint the following spaces:

- Kitchen
- Living room
- Sunroom
- Downstairs/ upstairs hallways
- 2 bathrooms
- 2 bedrooms
- 3 closets

- Fix electrical outlets that were not code-compliant
- Install new electric circuits in the kitchen – and much, much more!

Now it is on to Phase II to complete project! During Phase I we concentrated on getting the inside of the house ready for Nick and Carmen to move in. However, to finish the job there is still painting and repair on the outside of the house and yard cleanup to complete. We will need many volunteers to help us tackle Phase II later in the summer, so watch for announcements of when work will begin.

~ Ed Howard



What Came Out Of The Laundry Chute?

The parsonage has a laundry chute that goes from the upstairs bathroom to the basement. When we started working on the house, we found that the chute was clogged. It took several people to clear the blockage. Here's what came out:

- Yard shovel (long handle)
- 10 items of clothing including towels and underwear
- "Swiffer" floor sweeper
- Hockey sticks (one signed)
- Fire extinguisher
- 15-lb. dumbbells

One of the dumbbells hit Mike Roberts in the arm, leaving him with a nasty black and blue bruise!





New Signs Will Provide a Message

As we approach the Oakgrove entrance, we will soon be greeted with a new sign above the doors that welcomes worshipers to a church that offers:

"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, AND OPEN DOORS"

As you may know, these words are the motto of the United Methodist Church.

A second new sign will be located on the wall by the usher's stand so it can be seen as we wait in line to speak with the pastor after the service. This sign will include John Wesley's statement:

"DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN, BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN, IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN, AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN."

These signs will serve as reminders of what United Methodists stand for and how we are meant to live each day. Both signs have been made possible by the work of our Worship Team and the Memorials and Columbarium Committee.

~ Cheryl Thomas



Worship Moments

Connecting to God and His Grace

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" Ephesians 4:6



Summer sometimes provides some flexibility for families. This flexible time lends itself easily to experimenting with prayer to find a comfortable and fulfilling way of connecting with God. Sometimes prayer is our work for a season, and then we may need to reach in another direction to deepen our connection to God and His grace.

Prayer is a powerful means of grace. God's grace overflows to us and to others as we reach out to Him in prayer. Even in our times of deepest need, we are NOT beyond the reach of God's grace. Sometimes all we need to do is be present. When we reach out to God, the Holy Spirit takes care of the rest. Romans 8:26 says:

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us..."

In good times when everything seems to be going our way, prayers of thankfulness can abound. However, we should not lose sight of our constant need for God and His grace. The Bible describes **Christian love** as:

*"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, **continuing steadfastly in prayer**; distributing to the need of the saints, given to hospitality." Romans 12:9-13*

Perseverance in prayer can be challenging with the many daily activities and demands that take time and fill our lives such as work, school, shopping, exercise, and sports.

Where is prayer on your list of things that fill your day? Do you feel connected to God? There are many different devotional materials and prayer guides that can help you incorporate prayer as a regular part of your day. Included in this newsletter is a Prayer Calendar that is based on Biblical traits such as the fruits of the spirit. You can use the Prayer Calendar either alone or with family or friends. Each day the calendar includes a trait to use as a prayer

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Worship Moments

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Prayer Calendar

starter and a Bible passage to read. After reading through these items, you can continue with prayer about a specific situation.

There is no need to follow the Prayer Calendar rigidly – you can pick a trait that speaks to your situation on that particular day. Families can pray about traits needed by family members who are facing a particular situation. For example, a child starting school might need prayers for courage, or a family member who has lost a job may need prayer for patience and perseverance. Try using this

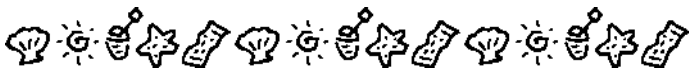
Prayer Calendar if you feel the need a jumpstart your prayer life with something new. Experiment with prayer and deepen your connection to God and His grace. ~ Kim Weingartner

Prayer Calendar



<p>1 SALVATION Lord, I pray that I/ my children would obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. <i>2 Timothy 2:10</i></p>	<p>2 GOD'S GRACE I pray that I/my children may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. <i>2 Peter 3:18</i></p>	<p>3 LOVE Father, grant that I/ my children would learn to live a life of love, through the Spirit who lives in me/them. <i>Ephesians 5:2</i></p>	<p>4 INTEGRITY Lord, may integrity and uprightness protect me/ my children because my/their hope is in you. <i>Psalms 25:21</i></p>	<p>5 SELF-CONTROL Father, help me/my children not be like many others, but to be alert and self-controlled in all we do. <i>1 Thessalonians 5:6</i></p>	<p>6 LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD Lord, may I/my children regard your Word as more precious than gold and sweeter than honey. <i>Psalms 19:10</i></p>	<p>7 JUSTICE God, help me/my children to love justice as You do and act justly in all we do. <i>Psalms 11:7 & Micah 6:8</i></p>
<p>8 MERCY Oh Father, grant that I/my children would be full of mercy and compassion as you are Lord. <i>James 5:11</i></p>	<p>9 RESPECT Lord, help me/my children to show proper respect to everyone, as your Word commands. <i>1 Peter 2:17</i></p>	<p>10 SELF-ESTEEM God, help me/my children develop a strong self-esteem rooted in the realization that we are Your workmanship. <i>Ephesians 2:10</i></p>	<p>11 FAITHFULNESS Let faithfulness never leave me/my children, but bind this virtue around our necks. <i>Proverbs 3:3</i></p>	<p>12 COURAGE Lord, may I/ my children always be strong and courageous in our character and our actions. <i>Deuteronomy 31:6</i></p>	<p>13 PURITY Create in me/my children pure hearts, O God, and let that purity of heart be shown in our lives. <i>Psalms 51:10</i></p>	<p>14 KINDNESS Father, I pray that I/my children would be kind to each other and to everyone else. <i>1 Thessalonians 5:15</i></p>
<p>15 GENEROSITY Lord, I pray I/my children would be rich in good deeds, generous and willing to share. <i>1 Timothy 6:18</i></p>	<p>16 PEACE LOVING Father God, help me/my children make every effort to do what leads to peace. <i>Romans 14:19</i></p>	<p>17 JOY Heavenly Father, grant that I/my children would be filled with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. <i>1 Thessalonians 1:6</i></p>	<p>18 PERSEVERANCE Lord, teach me/my children to persevere in all we do, and help us to run with perseverance the race set before us. <i>Hebrews 12:1</i></p>	<p>19 HUMILITY God, please cultivate in me/my children the ability to show true humility toward all. <i>Titus 3:2</i></p>	<p>20 COMPASSION Holy Father, I pray that You would clothe me/my children with the virtue of compassion. <i>Colossians 3:12</i></p>	<p>21 RESPONSIBILITY Lord grant that I/my children would learn to be responsible, for each one should carry his own load. <i>Galatians 6:5</i></p>
<p>22 CONTENTMENT Father, teach me/my children the secret of being content in every situation, through Him who gives us strength. <i>Philippians 4:12-13</i></p>	<p>23 FAITH Lord, help me/my children to fight the good fight of faith, taking hold of the eternal life to which we were called. <i>1 Timothy 6:12</i></p>	<p>24 A SERVANT'S HEART God, help me/my children develop servants' hearts, that we may serve wholeheartedly. <i>Ephesians 6:7</i></p>	<p>25 HOPE God of hope, grant that I/my children may overflow with hope and hopefulness by the power of the Holy Spirit. <i>Romans 15:13</i></p>	<p>26 PATIENCE God, strengthen me/my children with all power, so that we may have great endurance and patience. <i>Galatians 5:22</i></p>	<p>27 PASSION FOR THE LORD Lord, I pray I/my children's souls would pant for you as the deer pants for streams of water. <i>Psalms 42:1</i></p>	<p>28 WISDOM Father, I pray I/my children would ask and that you would generously give wisdom to us as you promise. <i>James 1:5</i></p>
<p>29 PRAYERFUL-NESS I ask that I/my children would be committed to prayer, and not faint, lose heart or give up. <i>Luke 18:1</i></p>	<p>30 GRATITUDE Lord, help me/my children to live lives that over-flow with thankfulness, always giving thanks to You. <i>Ephesians 5:20</i></p>	<p>31 BOLDNESS I pray that I/my children would fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel of Christ Jesus. <i>Ephesians 6:19</i></p>	<p>Prayer Changes Things! Use this calendar as a guide each month.</p>			



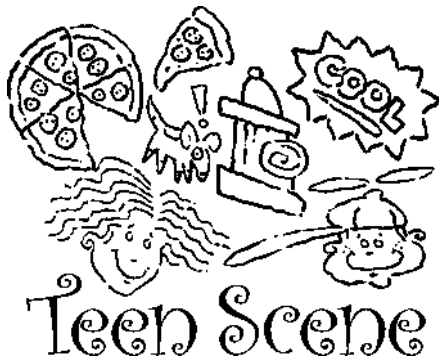
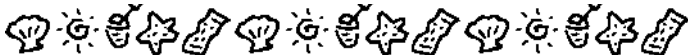


Children CE Dates to Remember

July 23 – 25 “Camp Wesleyan: Together at the Table.” Youth ages 12 – 18 can attend Camp Wesleyan at Daemen College July 23 – 25

August 3 – 7 Vacation Bible School – Camp E.D.G.E. (Experience & Discover God Everywhere!), host church is St. Paul’s Lutheran

September 6 Rally Day, Sunday School resumes!



Camp Wesleyan for Youth Ages 12 – 18

The 2009 WNY School of Christian Mission is presenting “Camp Wesleyan: Together at the Table.” Youth ages 12 – 18 can attend Camp Wesleyan at Daemen College July 23 – 25 for a cost of \$180, which includes room and board! The subject is **food**, which is something near and dear to all young peoples’ hearts! No matter what your culture, race, religion, or economic status, FOOD is something all people have in common since we need food to live! During Camp Wesleyan, there will be time to play. There will also be a mission experience at Seneca Street UMC. Contact Judy Toone for registration forms. Contact Deacon Sue Russell (585-591-0148 or asjrussell@flmtgif.org) with questions about Camp Wesleyan.

Children’s Christian Education

Calling All Campers- We’re Going On An Extreme Adventure!

Join us this year August 3 – 7 as we go on an extreme adventure to

Camp E.D.G.E. where we **Experi-**ence and **Discover God Every-**where! We are once again co-

hosting this event with St. Paul’s Lutheran and Faith United Church of Christ. This year the host church is St. Paul’s Lutheran. Join us as we trek to the Promised Land, to Bethlehem, the Pharisee’s House, the Upper Room, and even to Galilee! Once again, we will offer a freewill offering dinner available in our “Mess Hall” at 6:00 p.m. with the camp running from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Registration forms are located in the hallway outside Fillmore Hall - look for the bear, but be careful not to feed him! Please leave completed forms in Judy Toone’s mailbox in the office.



Volunteers Needed for VBS

While we are not hosting VBS this year, we still need all the help we can get! If you are interested in helping in any of the following areas please contact Judy at 634-4800.

- Small group leaders for:
 - Preschoolers (ages 3 and 4)
 - Kindergarteners,
 - 3rd graders on up
- Mess Hall Cookers and Servers
- Recreation Counselors
- Craft Counselors
- Assistant Counselors (Youth helpers)
- Campers willing to set up camp (We need those clever enough to turn St. Paul’s Lutheran into an extreme adventure!)

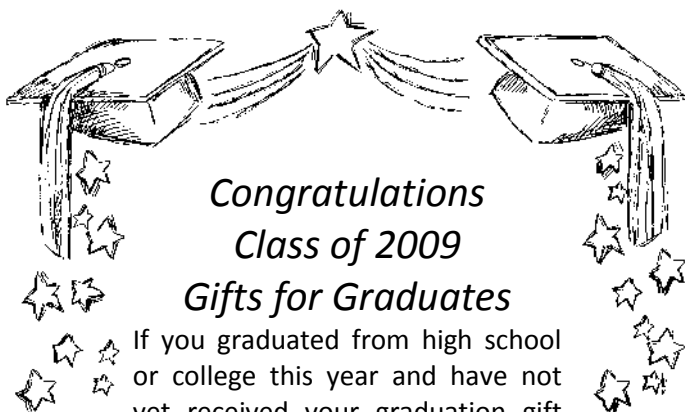
"I Spy God" This Summer!

When my children were growing up, some of our favorite books to read together were the "I Spy" books. We had every I Spy book there was including *I Spy School Days*, *I Spy Fun House*, *I Spy Christmas*, and even *I Spy Extreme Challenger!* Sometimes we would grab our flashlights, turn out the lights, snuggle up, and have contests to see who could find the different objects the quickest!



This summer take some time to play "I SPY GOD!" with your children. Look for God in the beauty of the outdoors when you are working in the garden, walking in the neighborhood, or on vacation. Help your children recognize God in the simple things you do every day. When your family is having dinner at the end of the day, talk about where everyone saw God throughout the day. Keep a list and see how many different places you can spy God this summer.

Want to make it a little tougher? Challenge your family to look for God somewhere they never thought of before. By the end of the summer, you and your children will have developed a greater appreciation for God's amazing wonders that extend way beyond our church building and your home!



Congratulations Class of 2009 Gifts for Graduates

If you graduated from high school or college this year and have not yet received your graduation gift from the Christian Education team, please contact Judy Toone (634-4800 or jtoone@williamsvilleumc.org). Congratulations to each graduate on a job well done!

Children's Christian Ed

Celebrate Children

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



Children's Disaster Services

Congratulations to Melinda Kratzer, Laura Koepfel, Marilyn English, and Joanne Campbell for completing the first phase of certification in Disaster Child Care and to Judy Toone who completed her recertification. In June these individuals participated in one and one-half days of training that included sleeping on Red Cross cots and having meals from the Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV)!

During disasters, the Children's Disaster Services team helps by providing free childcare services to families who are trying to access the resources needed to begin putting their lives back together. The teams are often placed in less than ideal settings with minimal supplies and often have to improvise on a moment's notice to meet the needs at hand, all while working with children who have been through some sort of trauma. We appreciate the dedication and concern each of you has shown by receiving this training.

"You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14





Adult Christian Education Update

New Disciple Bible Study Beginning in September 2009

Are you interested in developing a deeper understanding of the Bible and, as a result, a deeper faith? Greg Valentine, who joined WUMC recently, will be leading a study called "Disciple: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study" beginning in September 2009. This 34-week long study will cover about 70% of the Bible through a combination of:

- Daily reading of about 30 minutes per day
- Weekly 2 1/2 hour sessions that include presentations from Bible scholars and group discussion

The Disciple Bible Study is an intensive program that requires true commitment from participants - and it is well worth it! All views are welcome as we learn from each other.

Greg has over 15 years of experience leading disciple study groups and can vouch for the great impact these studies have on the lives of individuals and congregations. Greg's current plan is to have the sessions on Sunday afternoons, with childcare provided. Please prayerfully consider joining this Disciple group. Contact Greg (valentinemg2@hotmail.com) if you are interested in this study or have any questions.



ACE Planning Fall Classes

Our Adult Christian Education (ACE) team will be meeting in July to plan classes and activities for adults for the fall. Classes offered will focus on spiritual growth and Bible study. During the Christian Education time each Sunday, in addition to Contemporary Issues class, a second-generation Disciple course entitled "Invitation to the Psalms" is under consideration. In addition, Greg Valentine will lead the Disciple I Bible Study mentioned in the previous article. Anyone interested in becoming a part of the ACE Team should contact Judy Toone, Christian Education Director, at the church (634-4800 or jtoone@williamsvilleumc.org).

Nurture and Visitation Reflections

Caring Corner

Time is really flying by and soon we will have new leaders at WUMC. It is going to be hard for me to say so-long to Rev. Gail, Rev. John, and Pastor Daryl - they have been so instrumental in my faith journey and ministry. But, it is time for us to move on, and I know that our new leaders will have new ideas for WUMC.

On June 11, I had the opportunity to attend the Elder Law Workshops held at Hearthstone Manor. There have been changes in the Health Care Proxy and Living Will that I hope to have available for everyone by September. Once I have copies of these newly revised documents, I will set up a display in the church narthex. The display will include copies of these revised documents and information on important issues such as Powers of Attorney, Prescription Drug Coverage, and Reverse Mortgages. So, keep an eye out for the display in September.

Did you know that life expectancy in 1900 was 47 years old in the United States, but has increased to 78 years of age by 2000? Henri Amiel wrote, "To know how to grow old is the master work of wisdom, and one of the most difficult chapters in the great art of living." How true his statement is today since we could be destined to live into our 80s.

WUMC has a wonderful group older adults who continue to contribute to our church community with their wisdom, faith, and resources. Our older adults not only provide an historical grounding for our youth, but they can also serve as role models as we grow older. So take time to talk with some of our older members and learn from them, because they truly are an inspiration. Remember that in Scripture God instructs us to honor older adults.

Upcoming Nurture and Visitation Events:

September: Elderteen Luncheon

October: Flu Shot Clinic sponsored by WUMC

November: Healing Service (date to be announced)

Have a great summer and enjoy the beautiful weather!

Blessings and love,

Barbara Saltarella

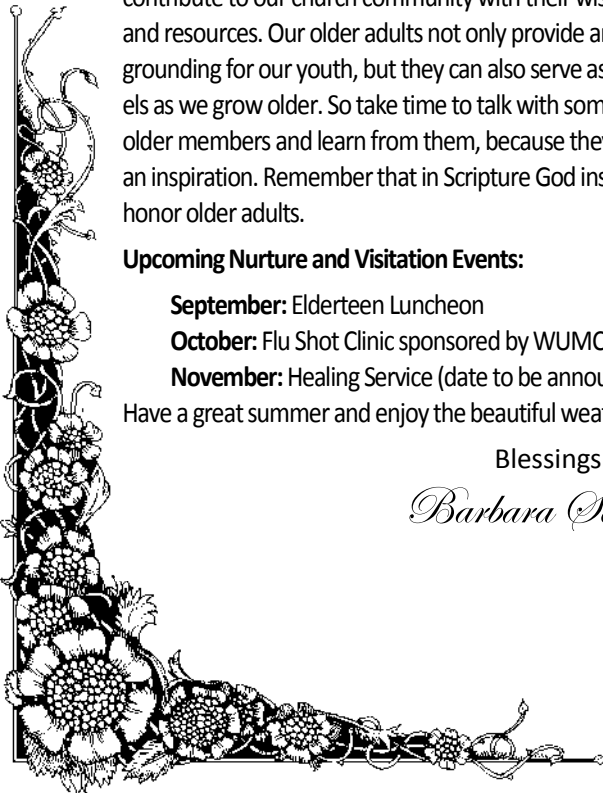
Health Corner

Preventing the Flu

You have probably heard news reports recently about the outbreak of the H1N1 virus, often referred to as swine flu.

The Erie County Department of Health (http://www.erie.gov/health/swine_flu.asp) provides the following list good health habits that individuals can use to help prevent the spread of germs and respiratory illnesses such as the flu:

- Wash your hands with soap and water frequently and thoroughly, especially after you cough or sneeze. If you are not near water, use an alcohol-based (60-95%) hand cleaner.
- Avoid close contact with people who appear unwell and those who have a fever or cough.
- When you are sick, stay home and keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and then dispose of the tissue immediately in a covered trash bin.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs often spread when a person touches something contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Do not share personal items and clean shared surfaces and spaces such as phone receivers, keyboards, steering wheels, doorknobs, and office equipment.
- Practice other good health habits including get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.



Stewardship Thoughts

United Methodist Response to Malaria¹

United Methodists are joining forces with others to make malaria's grip on the lives of children and adults a part of history. The "Make Malaria History" campaign represents the spectrum of efforts United Methodists are supporting to eradicate this preventable and curable disease that kills at least one million people every year.

Why is Combating Malaria Important?

- Another child will die of malaria within the next 30 seconds.
- Malaria affects 500 million people worldwide, 90% of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa where it kills one-fifth of the children under the age of five.
- Children who survive may develop chronic anemia and neurological impairment.
- Pregnant women are particularly susceptible.

The burden of malaria is causing many countries in Africa to sink further into poverty. The net loss to the economy in Africa due to malaria is estimated to be \$12 billion (U.S.). Malaria's lethal impact decreases the economic potential of an African country by 1.3% through loss of productivity because of illness or death.

The disease consumes 40% of public health expenditure and accounts for up to 50% of all outpatient visits and 30-50% of inpatient admissions. In short, Malaria is a crisis that affects health, economics, and human dignity.

The United Methodist community supports the following two malaria programs: Community-Based Malaria Program

Organized by the General Board of Global Ministries, this program supports United Methodist and ecumenical health workers and hospitals as they work to combat malaria in their communities. Provides comprehensive plans tailored to meet the specific needs of communities to combat malaria. Includes training on how to prevent sickness, free medications and consultations to those who are either ill or vulnerable to malaria, and provides insecticide treated nets to pregnant women and families with young children. The program was launched in late 2005 in Sierra Leone and is now operating in seven African countries.

Nothing But Nets

A United Methodist-endorsed project that supplies mosquito nets and training on how to use the nets. The *Nothing But Nets*



project is operated through the United Nations Foundation that uses its network established through the Measles Project to distribute nets and training. *Nothing But Nets* was initiated in Nigeria in March 2006 and is expanding quickly to other countries.

How You Can Help

Your help is needed to strengthen these efforts to make malaria history by purchasing mosquito nets through *Nothing But Nets* (Advance #982015) and by giving to the Community Based Malaria Program (UMCOR Advance #982009). Listed below are some things your money can buy through the Community-Based Malaria Program that supports United Methodist work in Africa.

- \$5.00** Provides medication to treat someone with malaria
- \$10.00** Purchases one insecticide-treated mosquito net and training for how to use it
- \$20.00** Pays for the cost of food and treatment of anemia in a pregnant women with malaria
- \$50.00** Buys 25 Rapid Diagnostic Kits for malaria
- \$100.00** Covers the expenses for an anti-malaria campaign in a local school



(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

\$200.00 Trains Traditional Birth Attendants in malaria prevention and treatment

\$500.00 Pays all the expenses for a one-day community leader training for 35-40 people on malaria prevention

How to Give

Offering For local church and Annual Conference credit, put your gift in the offering plate on Sunday. Be sure to indicate on the check which program you wish to support.

Offering For *Nothing But Nets* donations, make your check payable to GCFA. For *Community-Based Malaria Program*, make your check payable to UMCOR. Mail all checks to P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068.

Credit Card Call toll-free (800) 554-8583 to make a donation.

Online Donations To make donations online to the *Community-Based Malaria Program*, go to: <http://secure.gbgmumc.org/donations/umcor/donate.cfm?code=982009&id=3012092>. To make donations online to the *Nothing But Nets* program, go to <http://secure.gbgm-umc.org/donations/advance/donate.cfm?code=982015&id=3019340>.

¹ "Make Malaria History," UMCOR's Emergency Response to Malaria, <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/health/malaria/>



Community Bulletin Board



Another Successful BBQ!

If it's the first weekend in June, then it must be time for a Chiavetta's BBQ at WUMC - and we had another successful event this year! The final tally shows that this year's BBQ made \$2,250 in profit, which goes to support the general church operating budget.

The BBQ is a success every year because so many people volunteer to work at the event, donate tasty desserts, and most of all, those who come eat a chicken dinner. Thank you to everyone who helped!

Need Volunteer to Run Future BBQs

I also want to say that it is time for someone new to run the Chiavetta's BBQ. If you would be interested in having the chicken hat and chicken shoes, please call Ed Howard. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this event a success over the years, but it is time for people with new ideas to guide this event.



2009 School of Christian Mission – July 23-25

Mark your calendars for the 2009 School of Christian Mission that will be held on

July 23-25 at Daemen College, 4380 Main St., Amherst, NY. This year's theme is "Together at the Table." The School of Christian Mission is co-sponsored by the WNY Board of Global Ministries and the WNY Conference of United Methodist Women. All participants will take the "Food and Faith" Spiritual Growth Study led by Rev. David Lubba. For the second study, participants can choose to attend one of the following classes:

- "The Beauty and Courage of Sudan" led by Elmira Nazombe or Dr. David Snyder
- "Giving our Hearts Away: Native American Survival" led by Genie Bank.

The School begins on Thursday morning and continues through Saturday afternoon. The cost for attending as a commuter is \$110.00, which includes registration and most meals. The cost to stay in the dorms at Daemen College and receive all meals is \$185.00. A one-day overview, which includes lunch, is offered on Saturday, July 25, for \$35.00 for those who cannot attend all three days.

We hope you will consider attending the School of Christian Mission. If you would like to attend or have questions about the registration process, please call Carol Forden.

Community Bulletin Board

Annual WUMC Women's Retreat – September 11-12

Calling **all** WUMC women – mark your calendar now to save Friday and Saturday, September 11 and 12, to attend the Annual WUMC Women's Retreat at Stella Niagara Center of Renewal. Each year WUMC women of all ages and stages set aside this special retreat time to consider some spiritual truths, mediate, rest, and deepen friendships.

Even if you have not attended the retreat before, please consider joining us this year as we focus on key topics from Sue Monk Kidd's book titled *When The Heart Waits: Spiritual Direction for Life's Sacred Questions*. Consider this brief excerpt from this book:

"Crisis, change, all the myriad upheavals that blister the spirit and leave us groping— they aren't voices simply of pain but also of creativity. And if we would only listen, we might hear such times beckoning us to a season of waiting, to the place of fertile emptiness."

During our time together, we will consider how God can help us "dismantle old masks and patterns to unfold a deeper, more authentic self."

So, please stop by the Retreat Sign-up Sheet located in the narthex to add your name to the list of women attending the retreat. The cost of \$67 includes a private bedroom for each woman, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and supplies for a craft project. Feel free to contact Barbara Saltarella if you have questions or need additional information.



Book Club

Summer News

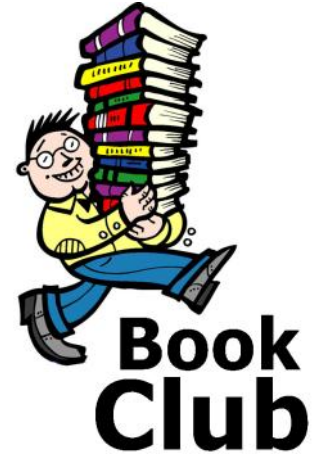
Join the Book Club for a "Potluck and Pick-a-Book Picnic" on Friday, August 14, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Carol and Roger Forden. Bring a dish of your choice to share and suggestions for our 2009-2010 reading selections. Both fiction and non-fiction suggestions are welcome. We will decide together which books to read. If you already have some suggestions, please e-mail your ideas to Ann Killian (killian@localnet.com).

Whether you come to the picnic or e-mail ideas to Ann, it is helpful if you have time to research things such the page length of the book and how many copies are in the public library system.

If September is the time for you to start a new venture, please join us for good discussions and fellowship. Even if you can attend only a few Book Club meetings, please join us anyway.

Calling All Readers To Help!

What is the best book you have read recently? Even if you cannot be a member of the Book Club this year, your book suggestions are welcome. Over the years, we have selected fiction and non-fiction in about even numbers and we are always looking for recommendations! We deliberately choose some reading that may be outside our "comfort zone," so don't hesitate to submit your ideas if your great read falls in that category. Contact Ann Killian (killian@localnet.com) or any member of the Book Club with book suggestions.



Help with Gleaning This Summer

Now that summer is here, gleaning season is right around the corner. What is gleaning? Gleaning is an opportunity to go into farm fields after they have been harvest to collect produce that was left behind. This produce is distributed to WNY food banks, soup kitchens, and others in need. Please take a moment to place your name on the Gleaning sign-up sheet in the narthex to participate in this worthwhile and rewarding activity. For more information, please contact Penny Graham.



Community Bulletin Board



Recycling Drive

Nickels for the Lord and Recycling Bin

Thank you for your enthusiastic support of our can and bottle redemption program. Thanks to those who have brought their returnable bottles and cans to the church, we have redeemed over 600 items, which has raised over \$38.00 already! This money will be used for programs and activities for spiritual growth. Keep those cans and bottles coming so we can continue to spread God's love.

Also, remember to place recyclable papers in the green and yellow **Paper Retriever[®] Bin** located at the back of our parking lot. Recyclable paper products include newspapers, magazines, catalogs, school and office papers, and mail. The more paper we collect in this bin, the more money the church earns!



Church family and friends may request special prayers through the Prayer Chain by calling Bob or Irene Hayman.

Please submit your articles, news, announcements, etc. for inclusion in the next Messenger to Sondra Scott via email at sondralscott@hotmail.com. Thank you!



OUR STAFF AND LAY LEADERS ARE HERE TO HELP YOU

Senior Pastor: Richard W. Neal

Associate Pastor: Nicholas Perry

Director of Christian Education: Judith Toone

Pastoral Assistant for Nurture & Visitation: Barbara Saltarella

Music Directors: Judith Stafford and Wendy Amuso

Church Administrator: Denise Barham

Nursery Care Supervisor: Kathleen Ciccone

Nursery Care Assistants: Amanda Dickerman and Shannon Casterline

Trustee Chair: Ed Howard

Staff & Pastor Parish Relations Chair: Gary Brost

Stewardship & Finance Chair: Rosemary Elliott

Coordinating Lay Leader & Treasurer: Dave Reichard

Communication Ministries: Karen Gerken and Sondra Scott

Family Life Ministries: Kim Weingartner

Memorials & Columbarium Ministries: Sally Jost

Open Door Nursery School Lay Leader: Susan Wattle

Outreach & Missions Ministries: Kevin Lyttle

Worship Ministries: Cheryl Thomas

Newsletter Editors: Sondra Scott and Rachel Zeller