



Loved by God, Led by Grace

The Methodist Messenger

From Your Pastor

Events and Dates to Remember

Sunday, October 3
Trustees Work Day from 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Saturday, October 3
Blessing of the Animals from 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Monday October 19
12:00 noon
Elderteens Luncheon

Sunday, October 25
Flu Immunization Clinic
sponsored by WUMC from
Noon 4:00 p.m.



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

All Sinners, All Saints

by Pastor Rich Neal

On November first, All Saints Day, we're going to do what Christians around the world have been doing since at least as long ago as the second century. We're going to celebrate the saints – some known, many unknown – giving thanks for all of them and for the ways they shape our faith, our lives, and our world.

Before I say too much about celebrating the saints, though, I must confess I don't know if I'd recognize a saint if I saw one. Frederick Buechner wrote, "In his holy flirtation with the world, God occasionally drops a handkerchief. These handkerchiefs are called saints." I think I might recognize that kind of saint. On the other hand, Ambrose Bierce defined a saint as "a dead sinner revised and edited." Cynical as he was, Bierce was also right (at least partly), so I'm likely to overlook that kind of saint.

When Paul used the term "saint" to refer to all Christians, living or dead, in-

cluding some real reprobates and rascals, we need to remember he also pointed out that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). So he might agree with Bierce that a saint is a dead sinner – or a live one – "revised and edited," though I think he'd say the editing is not done by human mythology but by God.

The words for "saint" in both Hebrew and Christian scriptures, I've read, refer to persons who had a unique relationship with God and who because of this relationship were set apart from the world so they might be of special service to God – the "handkerchiefs" Buechner refers to.

But when you think about it, Paul was right; the term does apply to all of us who because we have been drawn by God into the body of Christ have been separated from the world and marked with a special vocation. Peter put it this way when he wrote to the whole church, "you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be

a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you" (1 Pet. 2:9 *The Message*). Yes, that's all of us who have been baptized into the body of Christ. That's you, and that's even me.

When we observe All Saints Day, we'll focus on some saints who, whether we know it or not, have each told in their own way of the "night-and-day difference" God has made in their lives and in ours. I hope we will also think about how we, as the saints we are, are telling the same story.

Yours in faith,
Pastor Rich

"I must confess I don't know if I'd recognize a saint if I saw one.."

Worship Moments

What is Taizé?



Taizé is a small village in France, where in 1940 Brother Roger settled and began a religious community. For years, he had been an invalid suffering from tuberculosis. During that long illness, the call had taken shape in Brother Roger to create a community where simplicity and kindness would be lived out as essential Gospel realities.

The spirit of Taizé embodies prayer, silence, simplicity, and faithfulness. In a Taizé-type service, instead of gathering to talk to God through prayer, the worshippers gather to *listen*. Instead of talking about the Scripture, the Scripture is read and left to speak for itself in the silence that follows. By singing simple songs of prayer over again, the mind calms and the soul opens to God, who speaks in the silence and the heart hears.

In our busy lives, we seldom find the time, space, or clarity to listen to the voice of God speaking deep into our hearts. That is what we are striving for at our Taizé service - the freedom and space to hear God's voice. Come and join us at our Taizé service, which is the 9:00 a.m. worship service on the first Sunday of the month.

In addition, a contemplative, ecumenical Taizé-type service is available on the third Thursday of the month beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the church library. This gathering, which lasts about 30 minutes, is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Peace be with you,
~ Cheryl Thomas

Communion Servers Needed



COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

We need four communion servers for each Sunday of the month at the 11:00 a.m. service and four communion servers for the second and fourth Sundays of the month at the 9:00

a.m. service. Volunteers should sign-up on the list in the narthex. The pastors will give you detailed instructions on what your duties will be. Youth and adults are encouraged to participate in this very special and necessary ministry. If you would like to help with this vital part of our worship, please contact Cheryl Thomas, lay leader for worship.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers to Honor Loved Ones

Perhaps you have noticed that sometimes there are flowers on a pedestal at the front of the church during Sunday services. These flowers are provided by a member or friend of WUMC to honor or remember a loved one or to commemorate a special day such as an anniversary or birthday.

If you would like to provide flowers, all you need to do is select a date, and then put your name and telephone number on the Flower Calendar located on the bulletin board in the narthex. A member of the Altar Guild will contact you the week prior to the Sunday you selected to ask for the dedication you would like included in the Sunday bulletin.

You can order an arrangement from a florist or arrange flowers yourself. The Altar Guild member who contacts you can explore options with you if needed. After the worship services, you can take the flowers home or request that they be donated to a local assisted-living facility, hospital, nursing home, or homebound individual.

~ Nancy Howlett



WUMC Leadership and Conference Updates

Bishop to lead 10-Day European Tour



Bishop Marcus Matthew will lead a 10-day travel program to Europe from July 27 – August 5, 2010. The tour is open to UMC church members, as well as their families and friends. Many pastors across the conference are planning to lead groups from their congregations.

Stops on the tour include Innsbruck, Salzburg, the Brenner Pass, Bressanone in Italy, the Abbey of Ettal, Weis Church, and an optional tour of the Neuschwanstein Castle that inspired Walt Disney. A highlight of this tour is the option to see the 2010 performance of the Oberammergau Passion Play. The tour also includes worship and meditations at appropriate places.

The tour's customized itinerary includes a one-week stay in family-run Austrian hotels that will serve as our home base, which eliminates frequent re-packing and long trips using ground transportation.

Our educational travel and study program has been developed by Educational Opportunities, which is a Christian organization whose objective is to provide pastors and church members with affordable, first-class learning experiences. The specific goals of the program are to allow church members to:

- Experience the Passion of Christ through music and drama
- Learn about the roots of Christianity in Europe
- Learn how Europe's history was shaped by the church and vice versa**
- Develop the leadership of the local church
- Rejuvenate our spiritual lives
- Enhance relationships between church members

If you are interested in joining this tour or leading a group, please contact Rev. Chuck Excell at 716-646-1213 or revcve@verizon.net.

Save the Date: Workable Evangelism Conference - April 10, 2010

The NCNY Conference Education Resource Ministries Team is hosting a "Workable Evangelism Conference" on April 10, 2010 for laity and clergy in the combined conference area. Rev. Robert Pierson will lead the conference with "Needs -Based Evangelism" as the basis. The new "Rethink Church" materials will also be incorporated. The conference will be held at Clifton Springs United Methodist Church. We are very excited to announce that an extra optional session is being added in May as follow up. This session can be used as advanced lay speaking credit or

just for more information. Watch for more information to be released about this conference over the next few months.



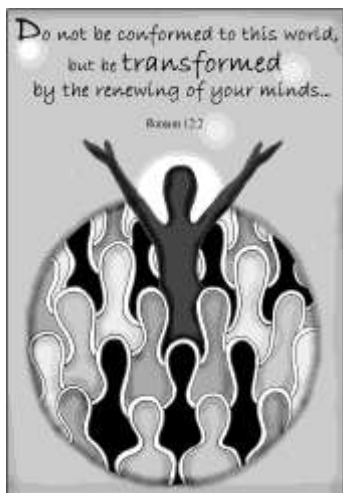
Disciple Bible Study Courses Offered Online

Enrollments are being accepted for The Richard and Julia Wilke Institute for Discipleship DISCIPLE Bible Study Online courses. DISCIPLE study groups are being formed and will include groups for members of a specific church or conference. The cost is \$30 and a manual available from Cokesbury is required. Bishop Wilke will offer a review of the weekly scriptures. For more information or to enroll in this online course, visit our Web site at www.BeADisciple.com.

Family Ministries News

Glorifying God

We come together again in the hustle and bustle of a new program year when many ministries are fully engaged. **Let's** glorify God with our interactions both within the family of Christians that is WUMC and all those we interact with each day. Romans 12 provides guidance that is recapped briefly below.



Verse 9 - Love without hypocrisy, Abhor evil, Cling to good

Verse 10 - Brotherly Love for one another, Honoring one another

Verse 11 - Eager to Serve

Verse 12 - Rejoicing in Hope, Patient in tribulation, steadfast in Prayer

Verse 13 - Sharing with Believers, Practicing Hospitality

Verse 14 - Blessing those who Persecute You

Verse 15 - Rejoicing with the Happy, Crying with the Sad

Verse 16 - Living in Harmony, Friendly with the needy, Not Proud

Verse 17 - **Don't repay evil** with Evil, Doing what is right

Verse 18 - Living at Peace with everyone

As the lay leader for Family Ministries, I am putting together a team that will look at the current offerings of WUMC. We will identify and develop areas that are needed to help all the diverse family groups in the congregation and community to engage in activities that glorify God. Here are some suggestions I have encountered:

Bring back Christian themed pot luck dinners

Christian Holy Day (or secular holiday with a Christian emphasis) events for all ages

Enhance other ministry offerings by providing childcare or meals so family members can better participate in church events

Link family members with areas to serve or help in times of need

The first meeting of Family Ministries will be on Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 p.m. Please come! Join in the discussion and creation of this valuable ministry team. Contact Kim Weingartner at 901-4415 or at weingartka@aol.com for more information and/or to indicate your willingness to serve on the Family Ministries team. ~ Kim Weingartner

WUMC Book Club

If you enjoy reading, consider attending the WUMC Book Club to join in our interesting discussions - or you can just listen. Information about our next three meetings are listed below - so join us when you can!

Book Club Meetings

October 16, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Bud and Sally Jost (155 Park Ledge Drive)

Book Selection: *The Soloist* by Steve Lopez of the *Los Angeles Times*

This is a nonfiction book about how the author finds his life enriched, entertained, and frustrated by his accidental meeting and friendship with a talented, but troubled street musician playing a two-stringed violin. Several of our book club members also plan to attend Steve Lopez's Distinguished Speaker talk at UB on October 28.

November 20, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Barbara Whitney (54 Oakgrove Drive)

Book Selection: *The American Gospel* by Jon Meacham

The author examines the spiritual foundation of our country as the Founding Fathers struggled with the relationship between faith and public life, an issue we still struggle with today.

December 11, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Midge and Vaughn Hackworth (17 Chapel Woods Court)

Book Selection: *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch and Jeffrey Zaslow

A computer science professor's lecture about the importance of overcoming obstacles, enabling the dreams of others, and seizing every moment - after he was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

New members are always welcome! Even if you do not have time to finish each book - come to the meeting anyway. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Ann Killian (632-3901).



Family Ministries News

Thoughts from the September Women's Retreat

Once a year, WUMC women gather from Friday evening through late Saturday afternoon for a special time of retreat. During this time, we focus on a topic to help us consider some spiritual truths that we can apply to our lives. We also take time to rest, meditate, and deepen friendships.

During this year's retreat at the Center of Renewal at Stella Niagara on September 11 and 12, we used excerpts from Sue Monk Kidd's book, *When The Heart Waits: Spiritual Direction for Life's Sacred Questions*, as the focus of our discussions. Our discussions ranged from recalling times when God called us to a deeper spiritual life – sometimes through difficult circumstances, the importance of learning to “be still and know that I am God,” and we even got a little philosophical when we discussed the concept of “fertile emptiness.”

We also set aside plenty of time for singing, a craft project which was making beaded bookmarks this year, walks along the Niagara River, and laughing – always plenty of laughing! This year the sisters of the Stella Niagara Convent let us use their recently renovated chapel, which is located in their private living quarters, during our quiet time on Saturday afternoon. What a lovely spot for prayer and meditation.

Why do we take time away from family, friends, and our busy schedules for this retreat? Here are a few thoughts shared by some of the women who attended this year's retreat:

“I found the retreat to be both relaxing and enjoyable. It was a blessing to share fellowship with all who attended. Also, I was able to get to know myself a little bit better.”

“I enjoy attending the retreats because it gives me an opportunity to get to know other female members of the church on a more personal level, instead of the quick hello on Sunday morning. You have a chance to discover the similarities and differences in each person's life story.”

“Quite frankly, there are few things so special as relaxing, discussing, sharing, and communing with a group of Christian women.”

“I attend the retreats because I like the interactions with other women in the church. It is good to meet outside of Sunday worship and committee meetings. Also, I was in need of a retreat from my rather active semi-retired life.”

“It is so refreshing to my soul and a much needed respite with girlfriends.”

“The time we share together at our Women's Retreat never fails to lift my spirit. The singing, discussions, laughter, and quiet times of contemplation help me

refocus on God's love and blessings in a new and deeper way.”

“I look forward to the women's retreat, which allows me to connect and reconnect with women of our congregation on a more 1:1 personal level. We usually have at least one person who has not attended before and this always adds to the group interaction. The Center of Renewal at Stella Niagara is a beautiful place, both the grounds and facilities. For two short days, I realize that I have too much ‘stuff’ cluttering my life – mentally, physically, and spiritually.”

“Attending a women's retreat allows you to bond with other women of the church on an emotional and spiritual level that is difficult to do during Sunday services or committee meetings.”

“I found the weekend very holy and spiritual. The feelings that I have for the women at the retreat is one of sisterhood, because we are sisters in faith. I liked the fact that we could take off our masks and be ourselves. To all my sisters I say thank you, blessings, and love.”

“I needed that special time away with other women and our Savior. I felt the absolute acceptance of everyone there and a wellspring of love for all the participants. A most treasured time.”

We have already started thinking about our next Women's Retreat in September 2010! So, watch for information in June or July, and plan to join us for this special time together.



Women's Retreat

Children's Christian Education Flash

Sunday School is For Us All!

At Williamsville UMC, we believe Christian education can touch the lives of everyone in the congregation – no matter what your age! We currently have over 150 children, youth, and adults participating in some form of Christian education either on Sunday morning or during the week. On Sunday morning, we offer classes for ages 3 through 99+ - **you're never too old to participate** in Christian education! Be sure to try one of the two new adult classes offered on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.

To find the class that's just right for you, pick up a Christian Education flyer located in the rack in the narthex. You can also ask an usher for advice and directions - they know everything. Please contact Judy Toone, Director of Christian Education, for information about Christian education opportunities at WUMC or to volunteer to help with one of our programs (634-4800 or Jtoone@williamsvilleumc.org).

If you have not completed a Sunday School Registration and Permission form for your child, you can get a copy from your child's teacher or downloaded the form from the Children's Christian Education page of WUMC's Web site (www.williamsvilleumc.org).



Christian Education Dates to Remember

- Monday, October 5:
Children and Youth Christian Education meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, October 25:
Outreach Event - For children kindergarten through 4th grade and their parents. 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.
- Thursday, November 5:
Adult Christian Education Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Our Third Graders!

A huge congratulations to the following third graders who were invited to receive special Bibles from our Christian Education team:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Christopher Angello | Daryl Powers |
| Molly Brown | Andrew Reinhart |
| Patrick Fortune | Kyra Schmidt |
| Hope Ingerson | Haley Sliwa |
| Della Knapp | Raymond Walter |
| Bradley Pettis | |

Following the presentation, these children were invited to join Tammy Wise and Cindy Steimer for a special four-week class where they learn how to use their new Bibles. If you know of any third graders we missed, please contact Judy Toone.

Care Packages for College Freshman and Sophomores

If you are the parent of a college freshman or sophomores, please e-mail their new address to either Pastor Nick Perry (nicholasperry@yahoo.com) or Judy Toone (jtoone@williamsvilleumc.org) as soon as possible. **Without this information, we can't send our ever-popular college care packages to them!** In addition to their addresses, please also provide their e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers. If your student is staying in the Buffalo area (and we know there are a few), please also provide that information.



Children’s Christian Education Flash



Stewardship for 3-Year-Olds through 8th Grade

By now, each child from 3-years-old through eighth grade should have received a box of collection envelopes. Every week during Sunday school, a basket will be passed, just as we do in the adult worship service. In the classroom, the Sunday school teachers reinforce the different ways children can show their good stewardship by contributing their time, talent, and treasure. If your child did not bring a box of collection envelopes home, please notify either their teacher or Judy Toone.



Who Are the Seven Helpers?

This is what the children in our kindergarten through fourth grade Sunday school classes are learning. Did you know that the early church chose seven wise and good helpers to assist the apostles and take care of those in need? The children are also learning how today we each play an important role in serving others in our church. For example, each week a guest speaker shares a little about the way they help others, both in our church and in the community.

Stewardship for Senior High Youth

The senior high class will receive their collection envelopes at the same time the adults receive them. Parents of senior high student, please take time to talk with your youth about reasonable stewardship commitments before they make their pledge. For example, you may need to coach them on how to factor in allowance and other sources of income. Please follow-up with your teen periodically throughout the year to see how they are doing in honoring their commitment.

Since the church factors pledges from our youth into our budget, just as we do with pledges from adults, it is important to make realistic pledges that they can honor. With college and jobs on the horizon, now is the perfect time to teach your teen about good stewardship of their money and time! Thanks for your help!



Outreach Event – October 25

The kindergarten through fourth grade children joining in to help others by bringing canned goods and nonperishable items for the WUMC food pantry. On October 25, instead of our usual fall event, we will be hosting a special *OUTREACH EVENT* downstairs in Fillmore Hall from 9:45–10:30 a.m. During this event, the children will go from station to station participating in different projects that help others, much like the Seven Helpers from long ago. Extra bonus points if you can name all seven helpers!



Adult Christian Education Update

Our Adult Christian Education (ACE) committee is devoted to the enrichment of our ACE program at WUMC. The ACE committee not only helps formulate topics for programs we currently have in place, but it also brainstorms new ways to meet the diverse needs of the adult members and friends of our congregation. If you are interested in serving on the ACE committee, please come to our next meeting on Thursday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m.

The ACE classes listed below meet every Sunday morning from 9:45 - 10:30 a.m., which is between WUMC's two worship services. Please feel free to join us on Sunday morning when you can.

Adult Bible Study

This new adult Sunday school class that focuses on Bible study is led by Greg Valentine. The class uses materials published by Cokesbury that focus on a different Bible theme or book every quarter. Participation in this class can range from occasionally dropping in to daily reading and weekly attendance. The class will be highly discussion oriented. A wide range of ideas, interpretations, and questions are not only welcome, but also encouraged! This class meets in the first classroom on the right after going down the stairs by the Oakgrove entrance.

Solomon's Porch

This new older adult Christian education class is geared for ages 60 and above. For those of you not familiar with Solomon, he was the son of King David who was known as a man of great wisdom, wealth, and power. 1King 10:24 says, "The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart." Come share your wisdom with each other in this ongoing class that will address a variety of issues specifically concerning your age group. We will start the year by exploring the book titled *10 Gospel Promises for Later in Life* by Jane Marie Thibault, which looks at how each of ten gospels promises affect our faith journey later in life. This class meets upstairs in the nursery school gym, which can be reached by taking either the stairs or elevator. For further information, please contact Barbara Saltarella (634-4800).

Contemporary Issues

This ACE Sunday school class can be traced back to a rich WUMC tradition of nearly 25 years. The class takes seriously John Wesley's belief that theological issues can be discovered through Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience. Each week the class meets to discuss all manner of topics including news headlines, book studies, Biblical themes, and current events. The beauty of the class is that each week brings a new atmosphere of learning. This class meets every Sunday in the parlor. Even if the partition is closed to block noise, just slide it open and come on in! Come when you can - you are always welcome.

Additional ACE Opportunities

Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible

We know these women. They are our friends, co-workers, relatives, and even the woman sitting next to us at church on Sunday. They are women of faith, but with some definite flaws. They are the slightly bad girls! Now it's time to study their scripture counterparts:

- Sarah - who was not the nicest person in the world to her maidservant
- Hagar - who loathed her mistress
- Rebekah - who knew just how to manipulate her son
- Leah - who totally wanted her sister's husband
- Rachel - who more than anything wanted to be like her fertile sister

Those who attended the previous studies (*Bad Girls of the Bible* and *Very Bad Girls of the Bible*) will love this study! Please join Nancy Howlett for a 6 - 8 week journey through Genesis as we consider those *Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible: Flawed Women Loved by a Flawless God*. This group will meet every Wednesday beginning September 30 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Women interested in participating in the study should contact Nancy Howlett (634-6553; nhowlett36@msn.com).

Eternal Perks - Back By Popular Demand!

Are you looking for a relaxing place to read the Sunday paper and grab a cup of coffee while your children are in Sunday school or before the second service begins? Join us every Sunday between services for a fresh cup of java in our Eternal Perks coffee lounge, which is located in the library just off the narthex! While the conversation is free, donations for a cup of coffee are always appreciated!

Outreach & Missions Musings

Join in Camp Asbury Fall Work Days

Camp Asbury has scheduled the two Fall Work Days listed below. If you enjoy being outdoors in a beautiful setting, please consider participating in one of these Work Days this fall.

Camp Asbury is having Fall Work Days on Saturday, October 10, and Saturday, October 31. Anyone willing to help rake leaves and do general ground work is invited to join us. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and work until 3:00 p.m., with lunch provided by the camp. Please contact the camp office (585-237-5262) to let us know you will be coming so we can provide enough food for everyone. Please bring gloves, rakes, and clothes appropriate for the weather. Feel free to call the camp office if you have any questions. The Camp Asbury Adult Work camp is scheduled for Monday evening through Thursday lunch, October 26-29. Join Paul and Ellie Robinson and others from around the WNY conference for raking and other work to clean and close the camp. The cost of \$50 per person includes room and board. For more information call 773-3550 or e-mail prka2ymf@roadrunner.com.



Health Corner

Gearing Up for Flu Season

The flu season is fast approaching and WUMC is gearing up. Again this year, WUMC is hosting a Flu Shot Clinic on Sunday, October 25, from 12:00 Noon until 4:00 p.m. The last appointments will be scheduled for 3:45. You can either call or stop by the church office to sign up for an appointment.

I also want to share with you some important information I received recently in an e-mail from WebMD's Cold & Flu Health Center. According to the article titled "10 Things to Do Before You Get the Swine Flu" by Miranda Hitti ([http://www.webmd.com/cold-and-flu/features/10-](http://www.webmd.com/cold-and-flu/features/10-things-to-do-before-you-get-swine-flu)

[things-to-do-before-you-get-swine-flu](http://www.webmd.com/cold-and-flu/features/10-things-to-do-before-you-get-swine-flu)), "the H1N1 flu, commonly called swine flu, is expected to make many people sick this flu season. If you're one of them, you're in for some serious at-home time, recovering and sparing other people from your germs. To make that time a little easier on yourself, consider taking these 10 steps now, before you come down with swine flu."

Make a backup plan. If you get sick or you need to take care of someone with swine flu, you will be home for quite some time. Check your company's flu leave policy. Ask now so you will not be surprised.

Talk to friends. You may need them as a "flu buddy" to help out while you're down with the swine flu, especially if you live alone.

Bolster your flu supply stockpile. Check your cabinets to make sure you have enough tissues, fever reducing medicines, thermometer, and plenty of liquids to drink. Be sure you have plenty of facemasks on hand since each mask should be used only once.

Stock up on comfort food. If you get the swine flu, you will not be able to go food shopping. So, make sure you have plenty comfort food available such as tea, chicken noodle soup, and crackers. Don't forget to have menus from various restaurants for when you feel like eating something a little heavier.

Be good to your hands. Even if you don't get the swine flu, you should wash your hands often to help prevent catching it. Treat yourself to some nice soap, hand gel, and lotion.

Stock up in DVDs and books. Select ones that don't need tons of concentration since you won't feel like tackling things like "War and Peace."

Know your risk. Pregnant women, children, young adults, and people of any age with a chronic medical condition such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease are more likely to have severe illness from swine flu.

Dig out your tape measure. If you get swine flu, you should stay at least 6 feet away from others to help them avoid getting sick. Check out how far away that is.

Put your doctor on speed dial. Unless you have a severe case of the flu or you are a high-risk patient, your doctor would rather you not come to their office in order to avoid spreading your germs. So, call your doctor first since you might not need to go into their office.

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(Continued from page 9)

Know when it is an emergency. Most cases of swine flu have been mild. But there have been some hospitalizations and deaths. Become familiar with the danger signs listed below, and seek immediate medical care if they arise.

Children should get medical attention if they:

- Have fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Have bluish or gray skin color
- Are not drinking enough fluid
- Are not waking up or not interacting
- Have severe or persistent vomiting
- Are so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Have flu like symptoms that improve but then return with fever and worse cough
- Have fever with a rash
- Have a fever and then have a seizure or sudden mental or behavioral change

Adults should seek urgent medical attention if they have:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Flu-like symptoms that improve but then come back with worsening fever or cough

Remember to either call or stop by the church office TODAY to make an appointment to receive a flu shot on October 25! ~ Barbara Saltarella

Annual Stewardship Campaign

Now More Than Ever, Let Your Light Shine

"Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name... Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

1 Chronicles 29: 13, 14b



Each year as fall approaches, Williamsville UMC takes time to focus on our annual stewardship campaign. During this time, members and friends of WUMC reflect on how joyful giving of our time, talents, and resources affect the ministries of our local church, the larger Buffalo community, and people's lives around the world.

This year's stewardship campaign theme, *"Now More Than Ever, Let Your Light Shine,"* reminds us that during this time of increased financial troubles for many individuals, generous giving is an act of the heart that can transform lives and change the world. This same generous giving within our church community supports our worship services, Christian education programs, outreach and mission efforts, and fellowship activities. As we join our resources with other United Methodists, we are connected to a greater whole that ministers and meets tremendous needs throughout the world.

As Christians, we are called to be generous stewards of all God has given to us. When we are truly generous, we reflect the character of God "who gives generously and doesn't hold back" (James 1:5). Jesus' generosity was intentional, focused, and purposeful—just as ours should be. Through his life, actions, and words, Jesus taught us that, "where our treasure is, there our heart will be also." This teaching comes alive when we realize how much easier it is to spend money on those things that are most important to us.

As you consider what your financial pledge to WUMC will be this year, also think about what things are most important to you and how your resources can be used for the glory of God. The world often judges a gift by its size, but Jesus looks at the heart. And so, whatever the size of your gift let it be the action of a cheerful heart and a reflection of God's generosity to you.

~ Rosemary Elliott

*We thank thee,
AND praise thy
glorious
name.*

(1 CHRONICLES 29:13, KJV)

Behind the Scenes

Behind the Scenes with a Head Usher

By Karen Gerken

While worship may seem like a one hour, once-a-week routine, it is truly a highly orchestrated performance brought together by a team of often “behind the scenes” people. In this column, we will explore various aspects of what goes into creating our seemingly flawless services: before, during and after.

This month, I had the opportunity to interview one of our Head Ushers, Ira Harbaugh, for insight into behind the scenes of usher duty. If you are not involved in this facet of ministry, you might be surprised at what you will learn. Each week at WUMC, we witness the grace of Ira and his team as they shepherd the flock to their seats.

KG You hand out programs and bulletins, but what other duties go along with being a Head Usher?

IH (smiles) Well, I arrive at church about an hour before service, since there are a few items to check before ushering begins. I need to make sure the lights are on, the fans are working, the intercom system is running smoothly, and that the elevator is operating. Then I get the boutonnieres ready for the usher team, which consists of four ushers plus me. The boutonniere and usher tag identify us to the congregation, in the event someone has a special need, we are there to help. I make sure the programs are ready including the regular, large print, and materials for children. I also locate the collection plates. If I know ahead of time there will be an additional collection, I can also have those baskets within easy access. In the case of a baptism, I will rope off the first few pews for the family to assure them of front seats for the ceremony. If I hear the office telephone ring, I answer it. Closer to the start of service, I make sure the ministers have water at the podium. If there are no acolytes, as in the summer months, I

light the candles at the front of the sanctuary. During other months, I light the acolytes' candle lighter. In other words, I do what needs to be done and I love doing what I do!

KG Are there ushers for the early service?

IH There are no ushers for the more informal early service.

KG What is your ushering schedule?

IH My team rotates on a quarterly basis with three other crews. I like to switch my **team's duties each week so each one learns how to carry on in case I'm not there.**

KG Each team has a personality of its own. How would you describe yours?

IH This is true. I just lead my own way. We call ours the “**A' Squad,**” a little nickname.

KG But I hear you run a tight ship!

IH (grins) Yes. But we are there as a UNIT, we work together. The most important thing is to make people feel at home; greet people, make them feel welcome to our church, hand them a program, and escort them to their seats.

KG What makes for a *good* head usher?

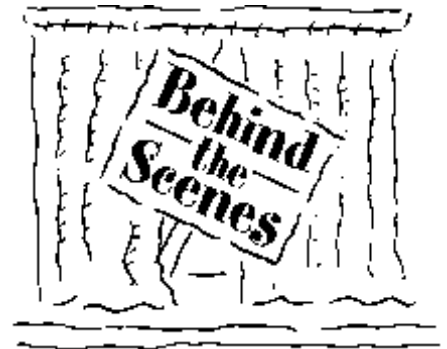
IH You have to have a *good* sense of humor and look past the little things.

KG How do you manage to stay cheerful, even around grouchy people?

IH **Crabbiness doesn't work around me!** I try to crack a joke, tell them it will cost them a penny for a program. A sense of humor gets me by.

KG **I've noticed that you have a special style of walking up the aisle as you escort congregants - backwards!** That seems pretty tricky.

IH (chuckles) **I know where I'm going!** I have people ask me if I have eyes in the back of my head. It just keeps me connected to my mission of making people feel welcome. **That's my style. For some, after**



they are seated, I take their walkers or wheelchairs to store until they are needed them. I tell those people that I have the keys to their Cadillac! The devices are never far away in case they need them quickly.

KG **What happens if someone can't make it to usher duty?**

IH When people have things come up, I am happy to fill in for any of the teams that are need of an usher. We help each other. But **we're always in need of substitute ushers.**

KG How do you keep track of attendance each week?

IH The head usher subtly counts everyone, from the nursery to the balcony to make sure everyone is counted. We fill in a form to submit each week.

KG Do you count once or twice?

IH (grins) ONCE!

KG After the collection is blessed, where do you take the plates?

IH The offerings go into a locked room where the counters do their job. Ushers **never handle money. We're just the transporters.**

KG **So you don't really sit during your duty of being head usher?**

IH **No, I don't sit. I stand where I can keep vigilant, looking into the entryway and being alert for any situation or emergency.**

KG What sort of emergency are you prepared for?

(Continued on page 12)

ODNS News

(Continued from page 11)

IH The ushers can escort parents to the nursery if their pager signals them. We are trained in the use of the defibrillator. The fire alarm system is in place to alert us in the event of a fire emergency. We are close to a phone and keep watch over the **front doors and possible intruders. I'm on my toes** at all times as head usher.

KG You seem to go above and beyond the call of duty.

IH Well, I will help a struggling parent with a fussy baby. I am happy to hold the child until their parent comes back from communion if they would like. **They don't cry with me! One time I had a kid jump off the railing out front, and I caught him!** Another time, before we had an elevator, four ushers carried a woman in from the front door since she couldn't walk the stairs. **We do what we can to help.**

KG Knowing people are creatures of habit, what do you do if someone heads for a seat you know is usually taken by the same person each week?

IH I try to steer them to another seat or ask those **seated to move in a bit. It's not usually a problem.**

KG You really know your way around WUMC. How long have you been associated with the church?

IH I was married here in 1957. You bet I know my **way around this church! I've become acquainted** with people through the generations. Way back when, one little girl used to hide behind her father and cry when I tried to talk to her. Now that she is all grown up, we laugh about those days.

KG You are pretty active outside of church too.

IH Yes, I work about six days a week. I work part-time at a lumberyard and I have my own handy-man business helping senior ladies with housework, yard work, errands, and such. Plus I do **leatherwork. That's me! I love doing what I do.**

KG Hard work defines you then.

IH You bet! I'm also an EMT and volunteer firefighter.



News from Open Door Nursery School

ODNS is off to a fine start as we find ourselves moving into the month of October. Our curriculum focuses on the beauty of the season and the changes taking place in nature. What better way is there to experience this subject than through outdoor walks in the village. Weather permitting some of us will have an outing to Glen Falls Park to enjoy a picnic-style snack.


The Pre-K class will begin their monthly walks to the Williamsville library for story time and to choose books for their classroom. Once all of these students reach their 5th birthday, they will go as a class to sign-up for their own library card – a milestone in their young lives.

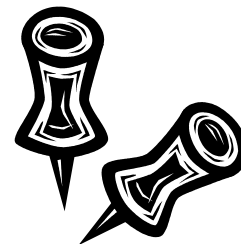
We look forward to meeting parents at an Open House on Tuesday, October 6, at 7:00 p.m. Each teacher will present a computerized slide show in their classrooms featuring their students in action during the first month of school.... and boy do they move! Thank goodness for digital photography.


Toward the end of October we will decorate our classrooms with child-friendly Halloween artwork and celebrate with costume parties on October 29 and 30.

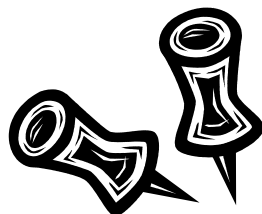
As of this writing, there are a few opening among the 3-year-old, 4-year-old, and Pre-K classes. If you know of a child who may benefit from an exciting year at Open Door, please call Judy Knab at 633-1655 or check our **link on WUMC's Web site.** ~ Judy Knab


Community Bulletin Board

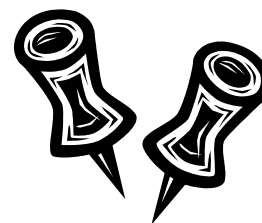

Chicken BBQ Leftovers Donated to Central City Café
A big “Thank You” to everyone who participated in our September Chicken BBQ on Saturday, September 19! It is the volunteers who work at the event and donate desserts – and of course – those who purchase delicious chicken dinners who make the day a success and lots of fun! The leftover chickens were sold, which increased the total amount raised for WUMC’s general operating fund. An added bonus this year is that the leftover coleslaw, potato salad, rolls, and desserts were donated to Central City Café to use in one the lunches they serve every weekday to the homeless and hungry in downtown Buffalo.




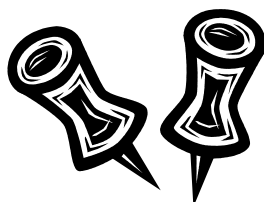

Seneca Street UMC Collecting Warm Winter Outerwear
Throughout October, Seneca Street UMC is collecting winter coats and winter outerwear items for men, women, teens, and children. We have an opportunity to support their efforts by bringing any warm winter coats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats that we no longer need to WUMC during October. All items should be clean, warm, and in good shape. Items placed in the “Seneca Street” box located on the west side of the coatroom will be transported to Seneca Street in early October and again at the end of October. Any winter outerwear items donated after that date will be given to Asbury Shalom Zone. WUMC has responded well to this request in the past - let's do it again this year!



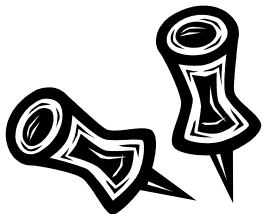

Fund Raiser for Asbury Shalom Zone
For the next few weeks, Rosemary Elliott will be selling Entertainment Books as a fundraiser for Asbury Shalom Zone before and after the Sunday morning services. The cost is \$25, of which \$5.00 goes to help the Shalom Zone. Please make checks payable to Asbury Shalom Zone.




Run or Walk for Gateway-Longview Children – October 10
Gateway-Longview is hosting its first annual “Paving Ways for Children” 5K Run and 2 Mile Walk on Saturday, October 10, at 10:30 a.m. on their campus at 6350 Main Street in Williamsville. Following the run/walk, a family-friendly post party will be held for participants that includes live music and entertainment for children. Interested participants can register for the event at the Gateway-Longview Web site (www.gateway-longview.org). All money raised at this event will be donated back to the agency.



Community Bulletin Board

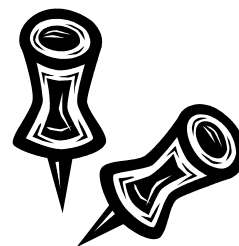


Flu Immunization Clinic – October 25

The Visiting Nursing Association Immunization Program will hold a Flu and Pneumonia Immunization Clinic, hosted by WUMC on Sunday, October 25, from noon until 4:00 p.m. *The Swine Flu vaccine will not be offered.* The fee of \$30.00 for a flu immunization and \$45.00 for a pneumonia shot is payable by cash, check, or by your insurance with a valid insurance card. Children ages 9-17 accompanied by a parent/guardian are welcome; consent forms available. Call 634-4800 to reserve an appointment. *Drop-ins before 3:45 p.m. will be accommodated if possible.*

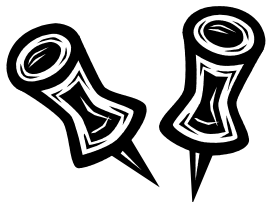
Meal Ministry at WUMC

If your family or a family you know needs temporary help with meal preparation, our Meal Ministry can help! A few WUMC members have volunteered to cook and deliver meals to families or individuals who, for one reason or another, are having trouble cooking for themselves. This “ministry” has helped many families in the past. In addition, we always need more volunteers to help cook meals. Please contact Lori Aloisio (688-4884) if you or someone you know can benefit from the Meal Ministry, or if you would like to be added to Lori’s list of cooks she can contact to help prepare meals. Thank you!



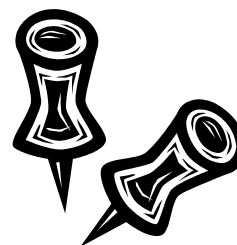
Join the Newsletter Mail Crew

A loyal group of people gather in the church parlor on the last Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. to prepare our monthly newsletter for mailing. This group is lovingly referred to as our “Mail Crew.” Please consider joining us for a cup of coffee and warm fellowship as we collate, fold, tape, and place mailing labels on the newsletters. When we have plenty of people, our work is finished by 11:00. Call Denise Barham in the church office if you need more information. Otherwise, we look forward to having you join the ranks of the Mail Crew next month!



Elderteens Luncheon

You are invited to the Elderteen Luncheon on Monday October 19, 2009 at 12:00 noon. Entertainment will be provided by “Senior Moments.” Look for more information in the weekly messenger!



Community Bulletin Board

Infant and Toddler Care

Loving, consistent childcare is available in the nursery downstairs from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. September through May and 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. when we have only one service in the summer. Our paging system will alert you quietly if your child needs your presence. If you need directions to the nursery, an usher will be happy to help you!



Prayer Chain

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

Have the Wiggles During Church?

In the back of the sanctuary by the Oakgrove entrance is a small bookshelf where we keep crayons and clipboards that your children can use during the worship service. The clipboards are full of different quiet activities such as coloring sheets, connect the dots, and word puzzles. If you have any children with the "wiggles and giggles," please feel free to pick up a clipboard and crayons as you arrive for the service. The ushers will be more than happy to help you locate these items.

Please submit articles, news, announcements, etc. for the next edition of *The Messenger* to Sondra Scott (sondralscott@hotmail.com; 832-5008). 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, Allison Soucise

Newsletter Editors: Sondra Scott and Rachel Zeller

Trustee Chair: Ed Howard

Staff & Pastor Parish Relations Chair: Gary Brost

Stewardship & Finance Chair: Rosemary Elliott & Lori Pacer

LAY LEADERS:

Coordinating Lay Leader & Treasurer: Dave Reichard

Communication Ministries: Karen Gerken & Sondra Scott

Family Life Ministries: Kim Weingartner

Membership Care Ministries:

Memorials: Sally Jost

Open Door Nursery School: Kathleen Zarbo

Outreach & Missions Ministries: Kevin Lyttle

Relational Ministries:

Worship Ministries: Cheryl Thomas