



Loved by God, Led by Grace

# The Methodist Messenger

## Events and Dates to Remember

### Monday, November 23

7:00 p.m.  
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service  
at Beechwood Continuing Care

### Saturday, November 28

9:00 a.m.  
Hanging of the Greens

### Sunday, November 29

Angel Tree Gift Angels Available

### Sunday, November 29

3:00 p.m.  
Service of Hope

### Thursday, December 3

7:00 p.m.  
Charge Conference with Natalie  
Hanson

### Sunday, December 6

4:00 p.m.  
Ring Master's Christmas Concert

### Christmas Eve, December 24

3:00 p.m.  
Christmas before Dusk

### Christmas Eve, December 24

5:00 p.m.  
Children's Christmas Celebration

### Christmas Eve, December 24

10:00 p.m.  
Festival of Lessons and Carols



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

## From Your Pastor



### Advent, Silence, and Stars

Pastor Rich Neal

As if the chaos infecting the world were not enough, now (*already!*) comes the run-up to Christmas, of which I was reminded on the ides of October when the bell choir was rehearsing a piece of Christmas music. What has already begun will pitch into high gear by the time the last trick-or-treater scurries home with the loot.

Along with unsettling news from around the world and from our own locale, that reaches our ears every day, and in addition to the way our own lives are unsettled by so many personal things, there now looms what has become the routine stress of the holidays.

Every year in this year-end season I and most of the folks I know bemoan the ways in which the delicate mystery of Incarnation is lost in the ham-handed ascent of commercialism. Almost any discussion that brings us to open our calendars leaves us shaking our heads,

wondering when we're going to find time for one more meeting, one more holiday gathering, one more activity of any kind.

### HOME

*I have a need of silence and of stars;  
Too much is said too loudly; I am dazed.  
The silken sound of whirled infinity  
Is lost in voices shouting to be heard.  
I once knew men as earnest and less shrill.  
An undermeaning that I caught I miss  
Among these ears that hear all sounds save silence,  
These eyes that see so much but not the sky,  
These minds that gain all knowledge but no calm.  
If suddenly the desperate music ceased,  
Could they return to life? or would they stand  
In dancer's attitudes, puzzled, polite,  
And striking vaguely hand on tired hand  
For an encore, to fill the ghastly pause?  
I do not know. Some rhythm there may be  
I cannot hear. But I - oh, I must go  
Back to the more of earth, the less of man,  
Where there is still a plain simplicity,  
And friendships, poor in everything but love,  
And faith, unwise, unquestioned, but a star.  
Soon now the peace of summer will be there  
With cloudy fire of myrtles in full bloom;  
And, when the marvelous wide evenings come,  
Across the molten river one can see  
The misty willow-green of Arcady.  
And then - the summer stars . . .  
I will go home.*

Every year I resolve that next year will be different, and every year I'm provoked by the realization that this year was next year last year. We're all such humans, and I chief among them all.

So this year I'll make one more effort, hoping I've read Isaiah rightly, that it's in returning and rest (Isa. 30:15) and not in arriving and striving that salvation is to be found; that it's in quietness and trust and not in the cacophony of achievement and acquisition that strength is to be found.

Let's hear together this year some words from William Alexander Percy, a Mississippi Delta poet and cousin of Walker Percy.

May we receive the gift "of silence and of stars" that is offered

to us in this season. May the "silken sound of whirled infinity" whisper in our ears again and lead us home to the God who has made home with us.

## Words From the Worship Team



### New Puppets Welcomed to WUMC!

Barbara Saltarella

A great big welcome to the newest members of WUMC - OUR PUPPETS! During the worship services on Sunday, October 18, our new puppets finally met their new families and friends at WUMC. It was very exciting! During the children's message, our puppets were introduced to the families that "adopted" them, as well as the congregation. We all celebrated with "An Order of Thanksgiving for the Adoption of a Puppet."

I would like to thank everyone for embracing this ministry since it is a great way for our children to learn, express themselves, and be part of this wonderful church. What better way to glorify God than through the heart and eye's of a child.

The puppet ministry will be in full force during this holiday season. We will have a new Christmas Story this year that will be told with the help of our puppets. I also hope to use the puppets during the "Children's Christmas Celebration" on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals for this program will begin after Thanksgiving. In November, we will have the rehearsal for King's Kids on Wednesday, November 11, at 6:00 p.m. with the King's Kids Celebration worship service on Sunday, November 15, at 9:00 a.m. WOW - is this exciting or what? I don't know who is having more fun - the kid's or me!

### Christmas Is Coming!

Cheryl Thomas

It's not even Halloween yet and I'm already writing to you about Christmas.

Deadlines for *The Messenger* come early, and what I am writing today, October 16, you probably will not read until the early part of November. So again I say, CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

How do we prepare for this wonderful and wondrous time of the year? In the Christian world, we begin our preparation time with the season of Advent, which begins four weeks before Christmas. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts, minds, and homes for the joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus - God incarnate, God in human form.

"But", asks the questioner, "why do we call it *Christmas* and how do we know if December 25 was the actual day Jesus was born?"

According to my Internet search, the word Christmas comes from the old English "Cristes maesse," which means Christ's Mass. The actual birthday of Jesus is not known; therefore, the early church fathers in the fourth century fixed the day around the old Roman Saturnalia festival (December 17-21), which is a traditional pagan festivity. The first mention of the birthday of Jesus is from the year 345 A.D. Gradually all Christian churches, except Armenians who celebrate Christmas of January 6 (the date of the baptism of Jesus as well as the day of the three Magi), accepted the date of December 25.

What do we do at WUMC to prepare for the Christmas season?

The first thing we do is to decorate the church. This practice known as, "Hanging of the Greens" is another old English tradition that dates back to long before the Christian era. Greens were hung in the home to lift the spirits of the people who were enduring the cold and dark of winter, and remind them that spring was not far away. The practice continued into the Christian era when greens served as a reminder of the coming of better and warmer days, and the new life that comes in the spring. The greens also reminded Christians that the birth of Jesus brings new life for all people and for all time.



### Hanging of the Greens – November 28

On Saturday, November 28, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, all are invited to join us at the church in the *Hanging of the Greens* and decorate the trees in time for the first Sunday of Advent on Sunday, November 29. By the way, this year we have a new "Cristes maesse" tradition. When we have finished decorating, we will celebrate with a "Yum, Yum!" pizza party! See you all on November 28 with a smile on your face and joy in your heart as we anticipate, once again, the coming of the baby Jesus.

### Annual Handbell Christmas Concert –

December 6

Ann Killian

The Ring Masters, a community group that rehearses at WUMC, will present its "Bells at Christmas" concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, December 6, at 4:00 p.m. The music selections range from whimsical and secular to familiar seasonal carols. The ringers recently studied with Cynthia Dobrinski, a favorite arranger/composer, and hope to include at least one of her works that highlights many of the percussive sounds that can be made by handbells.

This free concert will set the tone (pun intended) for your Christmas season and it provides a way for the bell ringers to thank the congregation for its support. The ringers come from different churches and locales including Dr. Ben Atanacio and Ann Killian from WUMC. Gloria Werblow, a professional carillonneur, is the director of the Ring Masters.

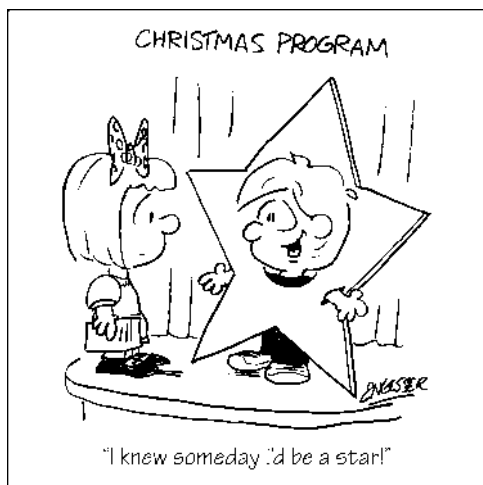
# WUMC Leadership and Conference Updates



## God Has a Positive Answer

This handy chart was contributed by Bob Hayman. You might want to cut this out to refer to on those days when you need a little reminder about God's promises to his children.

<u>YOU SAY</u>	<u>GOD SAYS</u>	<u>BIBLE VERSES</u>
You say, "It's impossible!"	God says, "All things are possible."	Luke 18:27
You say, "I'm too tired."	God says, "I will give you rest."	Matthew 11:28-30
You say, "Nobody really loves me."	God says, "I love you."	John 3:16
You say, "I can't go on."	God says, "My grace is sufficient."	2 Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15
You say, "I can't figure things out."	God says, "I will direct your steps."	Proverbs 3:5-6
You say, "I can't do it."	God says, "You can do all things."	Philippians 4:13
You say, "I'm not able."	God says, "I am able."	2 Corinthians 9:8
You say, "It's not worth it."	God says, "It will be worth it."	Romans 8:28
You say, "I can't forgive myself."	God says, "I forgive you."	1 John 1:9 & Romans 8:1
You say, "I can't manage."	God says, "I will supply all your needs."	Philippians 4:19
You say, "I'm afraid."	God says, "I have not given you a spirit of fear."	2 Timothy 1:7
You say, "I'm always worried and frustrated."	God says, "Cast all your cares on ME."	1 Peter 5:7
You say, "I'm not smart enough."	God says, "I give you wisdom."	1 Corinthians 1:30
You say, "I feel all alone."	God says, "I will never leave you or forsake you."	Hebrews 13:5



## Annual Church Conference to Meet

The annual business meeting of the congregation, the Church Conference, will be held Thursday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m., with our district superintendent, the Rev. Natalie Hanson, presiding. Essential items of business will include election of trustees and other leaders, approval of the 2010 operating budget, approval of lay speakers and candidates for ministry, and a celebration of the ministries of the congregation. All members of the congregation are eligible to participate in the meeting with voice and vote and are encouraged to attend.



**WUMC Seeking Volunteer Financial Clerk**

Gary Brost and Dave Reichard

Detail oriented? Proficient with numbers? Computer savvy? Free time on your hands? If this describes you, how would you like to turn these attributes into a ministry at WUMC?

The church is in need of a Financial Clerk due to the resignation of Debbie Parise-Barnes. The SPPR committee is looking to fill the position with a church volunteer. To obtain a detailed list of the responsibilities and tasks associated with this position, contact either Gary Brost or Dave Reichard.

A ministry to the WUMC community underlies the responsibilities of this position. The Financial Clerk is the person most often interacting with the membership and supporters of the church related to their pledging and/or giving, so trust and discretion are vital. This position works closely with the Church Administrator to keep the records of member and friends up-to-date and accurate. Monitoring pledging and giving trends can provide vital information to the ministerial staff and their ministry efforts to existing and potentially new members of our congregation.

The time demands for the position will vary. However, it is expected that the normal weekly commitment will be approximately five hours. During special times of the year, like the Stewardship Campaign and annual reporting, additional hours will be required.

If you feel excited about the opportunity to get more involved; willing to step forward because you know that this is something that needs to be done; wanting to be faithful to the ministries at WUMC; then please contact Gary Brost – Chair SPPR (882-6206) or Dave Reichard – Lay Leader (636-0350).

**Family Ministries News**

United Methodists in Upstate New York have answered a call to

**RETHINK CHURCH**  
**RETHINK CHURCH**

**“Imagine” Faith Statement for New Area Conference Team**

The “Imagine” faith statement provided below is based on the Vision Statement guiding the work of the New Area Conference Team (New ACT). On September 19, both New ACT and the Critical Questions Teams used this as a prayerful affirmation in worship.

Watch for further developments in the conversation around the core values of our new conference, and ways that our people and churches can live into the vision: “To live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God’s love with our neighbor in all places.”

*Imagine the people of God in Upstate New York:*

**Living the gospel of Jesus Christ...  
Being God's love with our neighbor in all places**

Imagine the people of God in Upstate New York:

***Growing in our relationship with God,***  
Being nourished by vibrant spiritual practices,  
Speaking the truth in love  
Developing Christ-centered and spirit-empowered leadership, both lay and clergy  
Trusting in God’s abundance and guidance

Imagine the people of God in Upstate New York:

***Being the body of Christ within the world,***  
Becoming a community where people WANT to be  
Showing hospitality by welcoming, engaging and serving in love with neighbor  
Being transparent in word and deed

Embracing diversity in age, ethnicity, geography, gender, race

Imagine the people of God in Upstate New York:

***Living in the way of Jesus Christ***  
Opening to new ways of being and doing Church  
Trusting the ambiguity and messiness of change  
Seeking courage to take risks  
Connecting with one another and the world  
Making decisions and planning with prayerful discernment  
Transforming the work of the Church into an act of worship.



## Family Ministries News

### From the Family Ministries Team

Kim Weingartner

The Family Ministries Team wishes all families a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and offers these Prayers of Thanksgiving for your use and enjoyment:

#### Traditional Children's Prayer of Thanks

Thank you for the world so sweet.  
Thank you for the things we eat.  
Thank you for the birds that sing.  
Thank you, God, for everything.

#### Father, We Thank Thee

By Ralph Waldo Emerson  
For this new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food, for love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness sends,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

We thank you for this holiday that itself reminds us of the need for thanksgiving at all times. Our ancestors knew the source of their protection and blessing and set an example for us. Let us remember those who are less fortunate than we are and give to them out of our abundance. May we take with us an "attitude of gratitude" that will be present throughout the entire year.

By James S. Bell Jr.



***"Blessing and glory and  
wisdom and thanksgiving and  
honor and power and might  
be to our God  
forever and ever! Amen."***

*Revelation 7:12, NRSV*



### Do You Have a Special Advent or Christmas Story?

Compile inspiring Advent and Christmas stories from our church family into an Advent Devotional? Hmm - what a wonderful idea! Do you have a special Advent or Christmas story to share? Maybe you have a special story about a family nativity set, Advent wreath, baking tasty treats, or hunting for that perfect tree. Or, maybe your inspiring story is about a family Christmas tradition of helping others or something special you do at family gatherings. We would love to share your special story in an Advent Devotional that will be shared with members and friends of WUMC. To share your story, pick up a form on the table in the narthex, write your story on the form, and then drop it in the nearby box by November 15 so it can be included in the Advent Devotional.



### Dust Off Your Family Advent Wreath

Remember to spruce up your Advent wreath for the dinner table. If you do not have an Advent wreath, you can either purchase or make one. The base of your wreath can be made of Styrofoam, moss, artificial evergreens, or grape vine wreaths that are available at craft stores. Garland can also be used to shape the base of your Advent wreath. Next, the base can be decorated by using florist wire to attach items such as fresh evergreen clippings, pinecones, seedpods, and berries. If you decorate the wreath with ribbon or bows, use them sparingly to keep it simple since it precedes the Christmas Holy Day. Next, three purple candles and one pink candle (used for the third week) are attached to the wreath with heavy wire or nails pushed up through the bottom of the wreath. The candles can also be placed in candleholders around the wreath. It is important to make sure the candles cannot tip over. If fresh evergreens are used in your wreath, keep them moist and replace them as they dry out to avoid fires. Starting the Sunday after Thanksgiving, light one candle each evening during dinner for the first week. On subsequent Sundays, light an additional candle each week until Christmas. On Christmas day, red, purple, and gold festive decorations can be added to the wreath as we rejoice in the birth of Jesus.



## Honoring Our Veterans on Veterans' Day and Through the Year

Ann Killian

If you take a stroll through our parlor/multipurpose room and stop at the northeast corner of

the room, you will see two framed posters that name and honor members of the congregation who served in the military in World War II. Since each generation, unfortunately, has its "own" war, wouldn't it be a worthwhile project to make this poster inclusive of those who served our country in other times and places? To make that information current will be a combination of historical sleuthing and perseverance, but will complete a past congregation's effort to observe the true meaning of Veterans' Day.

Veterans' Day is both a state and federal holiday in all the states and originated as a way to honor those who had died in World War I, which is known as the Great War. The date of November 11 was chosen to mark the date of a temporary cessation of hostilities prior to the official end of World War I. The Armistice went into effect on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918, and was regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars." In 1919, President Wilson proclaimed Armistice Day saying, in part, "we have solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service...." The Congress passed a resolution noting that, "the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises to perpetuate peace." After World War II and the Korean War, Congress amended the wording, substituting the word "Veterans" for "Armistice," making it a national holiday to honor all veterans. In 1968, the Congress moved the date from November 11 to a Monday to give federal employees a three-day weekend. The public rejected this decision and President Ford returned the observance of Veterans' Day to its original date of November 11.

Today there continue to be ceremonies held at Arlington National Cemetery and by veterans groups across the country in their own towns in honor of Veterans' Day. There are special resources available to teachers and even the History Channel honors veterans by advocating a "take a Vet to school day" to show we value their service.

Back to those posters....each of those names has a story to tell and so do members of the congregation today. Could we use Veterans' Day 2009 to start a commemorative project to honor those who have served and to hear their stories? This might make an interesting all-church project. In the meantime, on November 11 remember to thank a veteran for his or her service to our country and thank their families for their unique service.

## Family Ministries News



### WUMC Prayer Chain Ministry

Bob and Irene Hayman

I would like to start by quoting in part from the pen of Helen Steiner Rice. These lines are taken from *A Special Glow: Prayers and Meditations* by Helen Steiner Rice.

*"Prayers can't be Answered unless they are Prayed....  
No one ever sought the Father and found He was not There.  
And no burden is too heavy to be lightened by a prayer.  
No problem it too intricate and no sorrow that we face  
Is too deep and devastating  
to be softened by His grace..."*

The purpose of this article is to explain how our church's Prayer Chain works and to invite others to join and contribute in this endeavor.

We accept prayer requests for friends, relatives, neighbors, and co-workers. One does not necessarily need to be a member of our church to ask for prayers. Many times the church office or the ministers will request prayers for certain individuals. While all information received is confidential, we make sure both pastors are aware of specific prayer requests or needs.

Usually Irene or I start the prayer request on the two lists of Prayer Chain members. We wait to hear from the last person on each list to know everyone has received the prayer request, and then we close the Prayer Chain. While Prayer Chain members may leave a short message on an answering machine, they call the next number on the list until they reach a live person. This keeps the Prayer Chain from being broken and assures us that this part of our work is complete. We convey to each member of the Prayer Chain the necessity of the prayer request without going into too much detail in order to protect one's privacy.

We find that prayer requests started early in the evening receive the best coverage since we are able to reach more Prayer Chain members. While it takes only a few minutes of telephone conversation to pass along a prayer request, this is an important ministry to those in need of spiritual assistance with all of life's many problems. I do not know of many other church activities involving members that are more rewarding.

Listed below are the instructions and suggestions we provide every member of the Prayer Chain.

When a Prayer Chain member receives a call, they should write down the prayer request, and then call the person's phone number below theirs. If that person does not answer, then call the next number on the list until you reach someone personally. On the other hand, if you get someone's answering machine, leave a short message and state you are calling the next number on the list. It is important to identify yourself since some people screen all calls for various reasons. If you are unable to make your call promptly, ask the caller to continue the process for you by calling the next person on the list. It is important not to allow the chain to be broken for any reason.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Youth and Children's Christian Education

### Christian Education Dates to Remember

**Monday, November 2**

7:00 p.m.

Children and Youth Christian  
Education Meeting

**Thursday, November 5**

7:00 p.m.

Adult Christian Education  
Meeting

**Sunday, November 22**

9:45 – 10:10 a.m.

Christmas Around the World  
for Children

### Thank You to Special "Helper" Guest Speakers

During the months of September and October, children in kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade studied about the seven helpers in the Bible. Our deepest thanks to our special guest speakers who took turns sharing how they are helpers too! Week one Penny Graham told us about gleanings, week two Nancy Howlett showed how the Dorcas Circle puts together hygiene kits for Haven House, week three Carol Forden and Pam Curcio told about the work they do with Central City Café, and week #4 we learned about United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The children even discovered we have a food pantry right here at WUMC, so now they are bringing canned goods and perishable items every week.

### What Are You Doing This Weekend?

Judy Toone

I read an article this week that said that from the time our children are born until they graduate from high school, we have only 940 weekends to influence them. For those of you with children already in kindergarten, you have only 637 more weekends to influence them. By the time they get to third grade, you're down to 468 more weekends. When your child is in the fifth grade, just 364 weekends left. The bottom line is this - we have just a narrow window of time before our babies become teenagers. So the question is - what are you doing this weekend?

As partners in raising a Christian, faith-filled generation, as Sunday school teachers and

parents, we have just a few Sundays in the lifetime of a child to really impact them for Christ. So one of the best things you can do for your child is take advantage of everything that is available on Sunday mornings to encourage them to grow in their faith. That means getting them to church not just for the worship service, but also for Sunday school. However, the most important thing you can do for your child is to realize that Sunday is just one day out of seven days in the week. Don't allow those days to run together without any spiritual influence in your child's life at home. YOU are the best strategy for raising a faithful child. So what are you doing?



### Fall Outreach Event

On October 25, instead of our usual fall event, we hosted a special Outreach Event during which the children went to different stations to make things to help others. Just like in the Bible, we have lots of helpers here too!

### Sunday School Is For Us All!

Every week we have over 150 children, youth, and adults who participate in some form of Christian education on a Sunday morning or during the week. We offer classes for ages three through 99+! Be sure to pick up a Christian Education brochure located in the rack in the narthex to find the class that's just right for you. Also, feel free to call Judy Toone at 634-4800 for more information. Please join us whenever you can - our doors are always open!

(Continued from page 6)

Any information received in a prayer request is considered confidential and is to be shared only with the pastors and other members of the Prayer Chain. Feel free to call Bob or Irene Hayman at 688-1258 if you have a prayer request or need any additional information.



### WUMC Book Club

Ann Killian

The holiday season always makes for a busy schedule. Even so, give yourself a gift of time and fellowship by including the Book Club dates included below on your holiday calendar as we finish our reading for 2009

Book Club Meetings

**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 sees his nonfiction book as "the real saga of God, the Founding Fathers, and the making of a nation...and how the Founders believed in faith and freedom" for themselves and others.

**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

This book is Professor Pausch's consideration of what he would like his students to know about what matters to him. In this case, it was his last chance to share since he was ill. This uplifting book will make you think about what you might say about your own legacy.

At the meeting on December 11, we will also discuss book selections for 2010.

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).

# Youth and Children's Christian Education

## Junior and Senior High Youth Group Happenings



know there are a few!), we want to know that too! We are planning on get the care packages together in November, so please get us the addresses quickly.

### Under New Management

The Junior and Senior High youth programs are up and running again. Pastor Nick Perry and Judy Toone are leading both programs, with the help of some wonderful parent volunteers. We anticipate the Senior High will meet every week, while the Junior High will meet every other week. The Senior High meetings are open to anyone grades 9-12 and Junior High meetings are open to grades 5-8. These meetings and events are open to all, which means you are always welcome to bring friends!

We will occasionally do a combined event such as the haunted tour of Old Fort Niagara or our pizza party! Be sure to look in the monthly and

Messengers.

### Stewardship for Senior High Youth

By now all Senior High Youth should have received their pledge cards for stewardship. Parents - please take some time to set reasonable stewardship commitments with your youth, factoring in allowances, jobs, and other sources of income. Then please follow-up with them on a regular basis to see how they are doing with honoring their commitment. Their pledges are valued and appreciated as much as any other pledge, so please

encourage them to give generously, but realistically! Now is also the perfect time to review all the ways the church supports their youth ministry on a regular basis! Thanks so much!



### Last Chance for College Freshman and Sophomore Care Packages

Parents of college freshman and sophomores, please get their new addresses to either Pastor Nick Perry at [nicholasperry@yahoo.com](mailto:nicholasperry@yahoo.com) or Judy Toone at [jtoone@williamsvilleumc.org](mailto:jtoone@williamsvilleumc.org) as quickly as possible. Without these address, we can't get our ever-popular college care packages out to them! Please include their e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers too. If your student is staying locally (and we

weekly Messenger for updates and check the Youth Group page of WUMC's Web site and online calendar for updates.

If you have not received an e-mail from Nick or Judy, please e-mail us so we can add you to the list.

### Junior High Youth Group Schedule

November 1 6:30-8:00 p.m. Meeting

- November 13 Buffalo Christian Center
- November 15 No Youth Group due to Friday event
- November 29 No Youth group due to Thanksgiving weekend
- December 6 6:30-8:00 p.m. Meeting

### Senior High Youth Group Schedule

- November 1 6:30-8:00 p.m. Meeting
- November 8 6:30-8:00 p.m. Meeting
- November 13 Buffalo Christian Center
- November 15 No Youth Group due to Friday event
- November 22 6:30-8:00 p.m. Meeting with "Mystery Leader!"
- November 29 No Youth Group due to Thanksgiving weekend
- December 6 6:30-8:00 p.m. Meeting

## Christmas around the World

Beginning Sunday, November 1, our kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grades classes will begin a series called "Christmas around the World." Every week, from 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. in Fillmore Hall, these children will learn how other countries celebrate the Christmas holiday. On Sunday, November 22, instead of our usual Advent Fair we will visit different countries

instead! Watch for more details on this special event in our upcoming weekly





ADULT  
CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION

# Adult Christian Education Update

*Our Adult Christian Education (ACE) committee is devoted to the enrichment of our ACE program at WUMC. The ACE committee helps formulate topics for programs and consider 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 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.*

## Solomon's Porch

The Solomon's Porch adult class will be working on a new study called "Living Fully, Dying Well" by retired Bishop Rueben Job. Living fully is life's most rewarding gift. This wonderful gift called life is precious. However, sometimes we are too busy to enjoy it fully even though one day this wonderful gift will end. All of us will die one day. We think about death, but we seldom talk about death in a calm and rational way. To live fully and die well requires deep personal faith. We do not walk alone, Christ walk's beside us. Won't you join us on this spiritual walk? You will find this class upstairs in the nursery school gym, which can be reached by taking either the stairs or elevator. Our door is always open.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact:

Pastor Nick Perry  
nicholasperry@yahoo.com  
Cell: 984-5483 ½ Facebook

-or- Judy Toone  
jtoone@williamsvilleumc.org  
Cell: 998-2512 ½ Facebook

## Adult Bible Study

The Adult Bible Study group is going strong and welcomes more participants! We meet in the first classroom on the right as you reach the bottom of the stairs from the Oakgrove entrance. This quarter we are studying different aspects of leadership as shown in the Bible. Participation can range from daily scripture readings to just showing up. This is a discussion-based class and all viewpoints and questions are welcome!

## Contemporary Issues

Contemporary Issues is an adult Sunday school class that 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. This class meets to discuss all manner of topics from news headlines to book studies to Biblical themes and current events. The beauty of the class is that each week brings a new atmosphere of learning. Come when you can - you are always welcome! We meet upstairs in the nursery school gym, which can be reached by taking either the stairs or elevator.



# Outreach & Missions Musings

## We're Getting Ready for the Holidays!

Kevin Lyttle

For the past four years, Seneca Street Church has been providing a means by which impoverished children from the Seneca Babcock neighborhood can know the gift of "giving." The "Children's Christmas Shoppe" allows children an opportunity to give back to their families and experience the joy of selflessness. "Buying" a gift for a parent, sibling, or pet gives these children a real feeling of excitement and worth. By donating gift items to the Christmas Shoppe or by volunteering to help the children shop or wrap gifts, you can experience this joy as well! In addition to donating gift items, wrapping paper and tape are also needed.

WUMC has been asked to provide some donations in special gift categories - ones that have generally been "undersupplied" the last few years. Please find a gift or two from the list below that you can donate, and then place your gift in the drop-off box in the narthex before November 24. If you can, plan to participate in the Children's Christmas Shoppe experience that will take place on Saturday, December 5, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. See a member of the Missions Team for more information.

## Gifts for the Children's Christmas Shoppe

**Gifts for Fathers:** Cologne, shaving cream, razors, flashlights, ice scrapers, mugs (with or without candy), winter hats, gloves, movies, watches, wallets

**Gifts for Baby Sisters and Brothers:** Onesies (one-piece underwear for babies), bibs, bottles, small toys suitable for infants, socks, hats, mittens

**Gifts for Pets:** Dog or cat food, treats, toys, leashes, collars, food bowls

## Angel Tree Gift Angels Are Coming – November 29



Be on the lookout for our Christmas Angel Tree program that is set to begin on November 29. We will have a range of gift requests from our friends at Gateway-Longview, and this year the need is greater than ever. Stop by the display in the narthex beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Please make the Gateway Angel gift shopping part of your family's holiday tradition. See you on the November 29!



(Continued from page 9)

## Big Thanks to WUMC!

Seneca Street church sends a big "Thanks!" for all the support provided for their summer "School" program this past July and August. The field trip to the Rochester Science Museum was a great success. We hope you got to see some of the pictures the kids sent that were displayed in our church office. The extra funds we collected also helped supplement their classroom supplies and other activities. The program served more than 50 children in the Seneca Babcock neighborhood and helped them to have an enjoyable - and educational - summer experience!

## Thank You from Gateway-Longview

On behalf of Gateway-Longview and the children and families we serve, we would like to thank the Williamsville United Methodist Church for your gift of \$100.00. The goal of Gateway-Longview is to continue to make a positive difference in countless lives. Thanks to your commitment, children placed in foster care will find loving families. Thanks to your dedication, students struggling in school will receive the educational help they need. Also, thanks to your support, teenage mothers will learn how to care properly for their young children. Please know that we will be good stewards of your support, both now and in the future.



# Nurture and Visitation Reflections

## Health Corner

Submitted by Barbara Saltarella

Listed below are 10 tips that may be helpful to individuals living with low vision. These tips were included in an article by Deborah Kogler that appeared in the *Today's Caregiver* magazine.



**Lighting:** When working on a task, increase the amount of light and focus the light directly on the task being completed. Use LED lights or natural daylight bulbs instead of fluorescent lights, which cause glares.

**Brushing Teeth:** It is easier to see colored or striped toothpaste on a toothbrush with white bristles. You can also simply squirt toothpaste directly into your mouth before brushing your teeth.

**Money Identification:** Use the different edges on each coin and its size to differentiate one coin from another. The dime and quarter have a rough or serrated type edge, while the penny and nickel have a smooth edge. When using paper money in \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$50 denominations, turn the bills so the back is facing you since the number in the bottom right-hand corner is the largest on the bill.

**Reading Credit Card Numbers:** Cover the credit card with a piece of paper, and then use a pencil to color over the raised numbers of the card and expiration date. This darker number will be easier to read. Be sure to keep the credit card in a safe place.

**Using a Cell Phone:** When purchased a cell phone, get one that includes voice-activated features, and then have someone help you program these features.

**Mark Stove Knobs:** Purchase puff paint or tactile paint from a craft or fabric store to mark key points on stove knobs. You can also use liquid Whiteout to mark black or dark colored stove knobs.

**Mark Cupboard and Pantry Items:** When unpacking groceries, place a piece of extra wide masking tape on the label, and then use a black marking pen to label the item.

**Matching Socks:** Pin pairs of socks together before placing them in the laundry. Be sure to use brass or stainless safety pins so they do not rust.

**Pouring Liquids:** Use a white cup when pouring dark liquids and a dark colored cup when pouring light colored liquids. The contrasting color will make it easier to see when the cup is full. If you cannot see the liquid, then place a finger into the cup so you can feel when the liquid is near the top.

**Writing Made Easier:** Use a dark, bold point marker such as a 20/20 pen or a bold tip gel pen (1.0 mm tip). Print instead of writing in cursive. Printed handwriting is not only easier to see, but it is also easier to maintain a straight line.

## Stewardship Thoughts

### Annual Stewardship Campaign: Keep Shining!

Rosemary Elliott

This year the theme for our Annual Stewardship Campaign is ***“Now More Than Ever, Let Your Light Shine.”*** How can we shine for God? In my opinion, that is what we are doing right now - we are shining. The more we attend church, the more we worship together, the more we pray together - the brighter we shine. The more we help others by sharing our time, talents, and resources cheerfully in gratitude for our blessings - the more God shines through us.

Listed below are some of the ways WUMC has let our light shine this past year because of your stewardship.

1. We restored the parsonage, which is now the home of Pastor Nick and his wife Carmen.
2. Although it has been a struggle, we paid all of our Shared Ministries.
3. We sent over \$1,500 in scholarship money to students of African University.
4. We had a very successful Vacation Bible School.

We helped two Buffalo churches, Metropolitan UMC and Seneca Street UMC, with their summer programs.

During 2010, we are planning to keep our light shining in several ways including:

- Pastor Nick plans to organize a summer mission trip for the youth.



### United Methodist Student Day – November 29<sup>1</sup>

United Methodist Student Day awards scholarships and loans to people across the United States – maybe even someone you know. United Methodists have a rich history of providing funds for education. This Special Sunday had its beginning in 1866 when a special fund was collected to provide for advanced education of Sunday-school children

and of candidates for the ministry and missionary service.

Like many things, college costs continue to rise. Thanks to United Methodist Student Day, people in our annual conference – perhaps even members of our church family—have a chance to attain higher education. Students attending United Methodist and other accredited colleges and universities receive scholarships and loans. Participating annual conferences receive 10 percent of the offering for merit-scholarship awards to students of their choice.

### Demand for Scholarships and Loans Skyrockets

More than twice as many college students applied for United Methodist scholarships this year as last year, and student loan requests poured in so quickly that the application site was closed in four days. In May 2008, applications for loans for the summer and fall terms closed in just

- The new organized Family Ministry Team is planning events for families and the WUMC community throughout the year.
- We are considering a major reorganization of the physical space of our church.
- Many who continue contributing their time and talents to work within our church.

Many others continue their ministries outside the church volunteering time and energy to make our community a better place to live.

We hope the “A Forward Step” brochure you received through the mail or at church will help you prayerfully consider your current weekly or monthly giving during 2010. We are asking all who can do so to please continue your current level of giving or consider a small forward step. Even a small step for an individual will become a huge step for WUMC when added to the other small steps forward taken by members and friends.

As you read the “A Forward Step” brochure, please take time to consider the “step of faith” that is discussed in the right panel. The table in this panel shows how you can move toward tithing when the amount you give is based on your income.

After you take time to think about your offering and ask God to your decision, please return the card with your offer of giving. Returning your card helps us plan God’s work for our church in 2010. Together we are a bright and shining light, and we give God the glory.

three weeks. This year loan applications for summer and fall 2009 semesters opened on May 1, and then closed just four days later after 299 applications were received for about \$1.5 million.

The economy is one factor for the increasing number of applications, but the online application process, which went online in January 2009, and the “Five for Five” loan program were also big factors in the increase, said Angella Current-Felder, executive director of the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry’s Office of Loans and Scholarships.

“We have more applications for both loans and scholarships than we have funds,” Current-Felder said. However, fewer funds are available because of the economy. “We suffered about a 20 percent loss in investments. For instance, we have one fund that had \$7 million, and now it has \$5.5 million,” she said. “The good news is that right now, it looks as if our collections are holding. We projected \$2 million in collections, and it appears we will get that,” Current-Felder said. “We award loans with what we collect.”

Donations to United Methodist Student Day can be made during our worship services on November 29 or online at <https://donate.gcfa.org/FundDetails.aspx?ID=10000141000110007>. To learn more about United Methodist scholarships and loans, visit [www.gbhem.org](http://www.gbhem.org) and click on Loans and Scholarships.

<sup>1</sup> “Demand for scholarships, loans skyrockets,” Sharing God’s Gifts, [http://www.umegiving.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=qwL6KkNWLrH8b=3931687&content\\_id={5315FC6E-D9A1-46B8-8F68-20FBDDCE47F4}&notoc=1](http://www.umegiving.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=qwL6KkNWLrH8b=3931687&content_id={5315FC6E-D9A1-46B8-8F68-20FBDDCE47F4}&notoc=1), June 2009.



## Behind the Scenes

### Worship Teams

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 Cheryl Thomas, our lay leader of Worship Ministries, for insight into behind the scenes of the duties of the various worship teams. This facet of ministry is wide reaching and integral to our familiar weekly routine. We regularly witness the grace of Cheryl’s gifts and talents as she leads the team in diverse, meaningful, and relevant ways to worship at WUMC.

#### KG What is entailed in being the Lay Leader for Worship?

CT A lot of this ministry entails the coordination of details of worship services and making sure everything is in place, from the paraments and communion to visual displays and puppet productions! I am the contact person for the several groups that make up the Worship Ministry Team: acolytes; communion stewards; communion servers; ushers; music; drama; visual arts; altar guild and flowers; and readers.

#### KG Whew, that encompasses a lot. How often do you meet?

CT We meet monthly. There is always lively banter as we discuss ways to try to meet the varied learning styles and ages of the congregation in our effort to engage our audience and enhance their worship experience. That’s why the team thinks it’s important to offer great diversity in our services: contemporary worship, traditional, Taizé, King’s Kids. People can attend whichever service appeals to them. We are always considering ways of doing worship service, like incorporating drama, liturgical dance, and other ways of expanding our reach into the service of our congregation.

#### KG It sounds like you have some insight into this. What brought you to this ministry?

CT I’m a retired music teacher. I understand that people have different learning styles, such as visual, tactile, or auditory. Two years ago, the opportunity arose to become the Lay Leader of Worship and I felt called. It’s a great team with many great ideas. We get along, and even if we “agreeably disagree” we are there for the same purpose: to

enhance that special sacred time in a person’s life.

**KG Let’s examine some of the individual aspects of the Worship Ministry Team starting with communion stewards and servers.**

#### What do they do?

CT Communion *stewards* purchase the bread and juice and set up the communion table. We are fortunate to have very devoted and dedicated individuals who are always faithful in accomplishing this task. Communion *servers* distribute the bread and juice during the service under the direction of the pastor.

#### KG What’s entailed in serving communion? Can anyone serve?

CT (chuckles) It’s easy! Communion servers go up to the front of the sanctuary at the minister’s cue. They receive communion first, then serve the bread or the cup, saying, “Body/blood of Christ broken/shed for you” as the faithful receive the sacrament. That’s all. If you are able and willing to do that, you’re hired! There is no long-term commitment. If you want to do it *once* or on a regular basis - that’s up to you. I encourage everyone who can to take a turn serving.

#### KG I’ve noticed that the bread is not cut up. Why is that?

CT Communion is served the way Pastor Rich prefers it to be, as close to the Last Supper as feasible, by *tearing* a piece of bread.

#### KG How do you determine the details we experience each week?

CT Pastor Rich plans his services a month in advance, which really helps us coordinate with the various teams. The *lectionary* is a book that has all the Sundays of the church year, themes, and the scriptures to use, which frames the sermon topic. Color themes vary depending on the church calendar year, which we incorporate visually in the paraments, banners, and poster art. Our team is in the process of putting together a Worship Team Guide Book that will include things such as how the altar should be set up, acolyte duties, and the order of the service.

#### KG Speaking of acolytes, what do they do and who qualifies to be an acolyte?

CT Acolytes are ceremonial figures that have a bit of training. They light the candles as a symbol of Jesus’ coming into the



(Continued on page 13)

## Rejoicing, Prayers, and News From the Pews

*In this section, you will learn about times of rejoicing, celebration, prayer, and sorrow that have been experienced in our church community since the last newsletter. From time to time, you will also find news in the "Where Are They Now?" section about current and former members and friends of WUMC that are no longer in the Buffalo area.*



### In Our Prayers and Thoughts

Prayers of healing and support are requested for Marie Reiger, Charles Mastin, Deanna Hewson, Tamar Friedner, Irene Wachowiak, Russ Lewis, Marie Grieser. We ask that you continue to pray for Yoteen Cameron, Tony Eichhorn & family, and families in crisis.

A young family has been worshipping with us for the past few months that experienced a tragedy recently. Sarah Gregory was in a very serious accident and needs our prayers and support. Please see page 14 for information about an fundraiser to help Sarah and her family.

### Those in the Niagara Frontier District in Need of Prayer

- Rev. Paul Emery (Tonawanda) is expecting additional surgery.
- Rev. Rick Koch's wife LaDonna (East Aurora) who is recovering from an accident where she broke her collarbone and had 24 staples to a gash in her head.
- Rev. Naomi Babcock (Buffalo) is having surgery on November 17.
- Rev. Jim Pollard (Amherst) is recovering well at home following surgery.
- Rev. Dr. John F. Beeson ( is at home recovering from an accident - and doing well!
- Dorothy Emerson, wife of Rev. Richard Emerson, (West Seneca) who struggles with health issues that keep them homebound.
- Jeanette Leach (Dade City, FL) who struggles with health concerns. Jeanette is the wife of retired pastor Rev. Robert Leach.
- Richard Lemke who continues recovery from a stroke.

*(Continued from page 12)*

presence of our worship service, and then extinguish the candles to symbolize taking the light of Jesus into the world where we are all called to serve. Talk about a front row seat! Acolytes also gather the Ritual of Friendship sheets. We encourage the youth *and* adults to consider serving in this ministry either once or on a regular basis.

#### **KG What tasks are covered by the Altar Guild?**

CT The Altar Guild is responsible for changing and arranging the paraments and coordinating the flowers used in the worship services. The Altar Guild checks with the family or individuals who have signed up to donate flowers to make sure the flowers have been ordered. They also obtain the dedication that is included in the bulletin. Those donating flowers can either take the flowers home after the worship service or donate them to a care home or shut-in (delivered by a church member).

#### **KG Tell me a little about the drama aspect of worship.**

CT We are so pleased to have four youth on the Worship Team: one is the youth representative, one takes responsibility for drama, and two represent the youth band. We have full-sized puppets that our used in the King's Kids worship service on the third Sunday of

each month. We are delighted that our recent Adopt-A-Puppet campaign resulted in a fully stocked puppet ministry! King's Kids Sundays allow kids and families to become familiar with scripture in a friendly way, where church becomes an atmosphere to be enjoyed - not QUIET! We also have dramatic presentations from time to time by talented people with an interest in drama. Now that we have an offer of guidance from an experienced member at another Methodist church, we are very ready to form a liturgical dance team *if* someone is interested in leading. Our Worship Team is always trying to expand worship in unique ways to meet the changing needs and interests of our church family.

#### **KG What's the hardest part of your task?**

CT (pause) Getting people to volunteer. There are so many ways people can be of help. Volunteering is easy, fun, and enhances your experience of being a member of the church family.

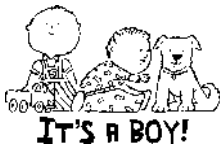

#### **KG Many groups make up the Worship Ministry team. Do you have any closing thoughts?**

CT Within the context of the United Methodist Church model, there are diverse ways to worship, even in a traditional building. If you are able to help, either a *little* or a *lot*, please leave a message for me with the church office at 634-4800.

# Rejoicing, Prayers, and News From the Pews

## Blessings from Above

We rejoice with Indira and Jerel Banks on the birth of their new baby boy, Cyrus. Yoteen Cameron is little Cyrus' grandma and Maud Marfatia is his great-grandma.

### In Memory

We remember those who have passed, but remain in the hearts of those who love them.

**IN LOVING MEMORY** During the worship service on All Saints' Day, November 1, we honored the souls of the following beloved members of our church who passed away this year:

Jane Ackendorf	Eleanor (Kay) Miller
Doris Bancroft	Lucille Moran
Joyce Champ	Elaine Ren
Jean Hagensick	John Roberts
William Knight	Grace Weissgerber
Lillian Lawton	Lois White
Nathan Michael Lodyga	Belle Wilkerson
Mildred McCray	

## Where Are They Now?

Do you know? In this section of the newsletter, we would like to include information about former members and friends of WUMC who have moved away from the Buffalo area.



But we can only include this information with your help! So, if you have heard from someone who was near and dear to others at WUMC, please pass the information to Sondra Scott (832-5008; sondralScott@hotmail.com) or Rachel Zeller (873-0755; rzeller143@aol.com), and they will include it in the next issue of *The Messenger*. Naturally, we will not include information about someone's personal or medical issues that could violate their privacy. However, we know those reading the newsletter would enjoy reading general information about the well-being of people with whom they may have lost touch. We appreciate your help in letting us know where they are now and a bit about how they are doing!



## Fundraiser for Sarah Gregory – November 18

On Wednesday, November 18, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., Toddle Town & More is holding a special OPEN PLAY NIGHT to benefit Sarah Gregory. Sarah is a member of our congregation who lost her leg after being struck by a car in September.

Members of WUMC, Buffalo-Mommies.com, and their friends and families are invited to come play at Toddle Town & More on November 18 for this special event. Regular price of admission will apply: \$8 for the first child and \$6 for each additional sibling. Non-walking children and adults are free. There will also be theme Basket Raffles to raise additional funds for the family on this evening.

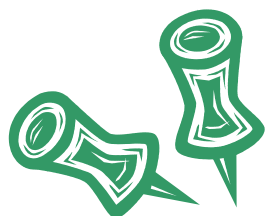
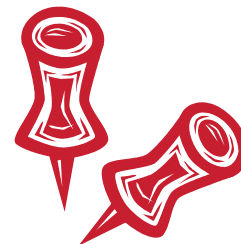
On this evening, 100 percent of the admission price will go to Sarah's family to help with medical bills. Please visit the Toddle Town & More Web site ([www.toddletownandmore.com](http://www.toddletownandmore.com)) to find out more about what they do and this fundraising event. Please contact Amy Roberts at [amy@toddletownandmore.com](mailto:amy@toddletownandmore.com) or call Toddle Town & More at 656-8800 if you would like to donate items to include in the Basket Raffle or with any questions.

## Community Bulletin Board



### Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service Scheduled – November 23

The greater Williamsville community's annual interfaith Thanksgiving worship service will be held Monday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m. at Beechwood Continuing Care, 2235 Millersport Highway, Getzville. Leaders from faith communities throughout the area will participate. Persons who attend are encouraged to bring a nonperishable food item as an offering to the area food pantry. Cash donations for the same ministry will also be received.



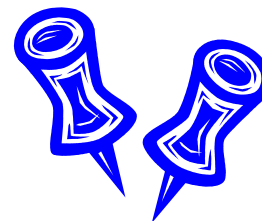
### New Part-Time Custodial and Janitorial Position Filled

After reviewing the church's needs for more extensive and flexible services in the areas of custodial and maintenance, the Staff Parish Relations Committee, after consulting with Trustees, have hired Floyd Schebell for this newly designed part-time position within our church family. Floyd has been retired after running a home improvement and repair company for 30 years. He has considerable experience in carpentry and other general repair and maintenance tasks. He will have regular hours on Sundays, preparing the building before, between, and after services, and he will work as needed on a variety of maintenance, repair, and landscaping tasks as needed throughout the week. Floyd lives in North Tonawanda.



### New Part-Time Nursery Assistant for the Crib Room

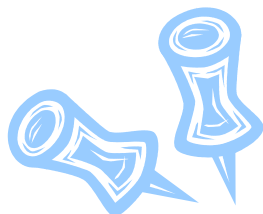
We are pleased to announce that Allison Soucise has been hired as a part-time nursery assistant in the Crib Room. Allison will work with Kathy Ciccone every other week from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. She has attended WUMC since she was a child, and was an active member of the youth group in high school. Allison brings to this job knowledge and skills of caring for infants and toddlers that she gained through years of babysitting. Currently, Allison is a student at University at Buffalo majoring in mathematics.



## Community Bulletin Board

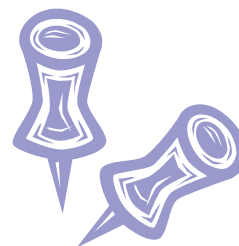
### Help Restock WUMC Food Pantry

The shelves of our food pantry at WUMC are getting quite low since August and September were the months that our church is responsible to provide extra assistance to families and individuals who are experiencing hard times in the Williamsville community. Please try to remember this important ministry when you are in the grocery stores this week. We especially need spaghetti sauce, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, soup, canned spaghetti or ravioli, boxed dinners, macaroni & cheese, juice, and baby food. At this time, we do not need tuna fish or beans.



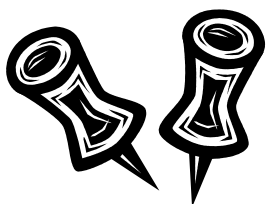
### Sermons Now Available on MP3 Audio Format

Weekly sermons are now available in MP3 format for download to your computer or portable music device. Visit the "Sermons from Our Pastors" page of the WUMC Web site ([www.WilliamsvilleUMC.org](http://www.WilliamsvilleUMC.org)) to listen to the sermons or read the sermon notes.



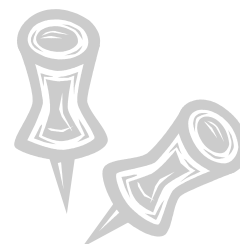
### Help Yourself and Asbury Shalom Zone At the Same Time!

Do you need to put your RV, car, boat, or motorcycle inside for the winter? Consider storage at the Asbury Shalom Zone, located at 520 Seventh Street, Buffalo, New York 14201. The cost is \$50 per month for RVs, cars, and boats and \$25 per month for motorcycles. In addition, storage space is available for your "stuff." A 12-foot square storage space rents for \$50 per month. For more information, call 716-886-8282 and ask for Luis Reyes.



### Looking For a Way to Include God in Your Marriage?

Find out how on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend! Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones—and focus only on each other. If you'd like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend can make! The next United Methodist Marriage Encounter weekend in Utica is November 13-15, 2009. For more information or to register, contact Keith and Diane Sherwood, 315-492-2372 or Ron and Diane Murdock, 315- 655-9864 or [encountr@twcny.rr.com](mailto:encountr@twcny.rr.com). A weekend of discovery. . .a lifetime of love.



# Community Bulletin Board

## Recycle, Recycle, Recycle!

Don't forget about our Recycling Bin at the back of the church parking lot. Please bring your old newspaper, catalogues, magazines, paperback books, hard cover books with the covers removed, junk mail, and other paper to the Recycle Bin. The more we collect each month, the more we receive per ton.



## Prayer Chain

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

Please submit articles, news, announcements, etc. for the next edition of *The Messenger* to **Sondra Scott** ([sondralscott@hotmail.com](mailto: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*