



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Prayers 4 a Holy Week!

During Holy week, Christians are called to set time apart in worship and reflection on the events in the life of Jesus as he walks obediently to face a death that will bring about salvation to humankind. The Holy week was filled with many activities including Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and his teachings about the kingdom of God.

Holy Thursday, the day of the Passover meal, Jesus wanted to spend this last evening with his closest friends, the ones who had traveled with him and ministered with him for the last three years. As his disciples begin to argue over greatness, Jesus teaches them humility by washing their feet. He then shares the last meal with them, setting apart the bread and the wine to symbolize his broken body and shed blood while charging them to do this to remember him whenever they gathered. We remember this time in our Maundy Thursday services where we participate in foot washing and communion.

After the meal, Jesus and the disciples leave to go up on the hill where Jesus begins to pray for the steadfastness of his disciples and the unity of all his followers as well as for Himself. That was when Judas shows up with the temple army to complete his betrayal of Jesus. Jesus is taken in front of the court, falsely accused and convicted, and turned over to the Roman authorities where he is beaten and crucified. Christians celebrate this day as Good Friday. Jesus dies that day at the moment of the slaughtering of the Pascal lamb and He is lowered from the cross and buried.

Holy Saturday, the day of darkness when Jesus is in the grave, has for centuries been a day of prayer in Christendom. In the early church, the entire congregation would pray throughout the day and through the night until the celebration of the resurrection at sunrise Sunday morning.

Today, many congregations practice a tag team of prayer as people come to the sanctuary to pray one at a time, a half hour or so each so that prayer is being lifted up throughout the day and night. Some churches open their doors for people to come by and pray at their convenience. Regardless of the tradition, this Holy Saturday is a day to be set apart to pray and reflect on the obedience unto death of Jesus Christ.

Holy week events triggered the most important event in all of human history; the salvation of humankind in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a holy time, a time set apart wherever we might be, whatever we might be doing to remember the events that gave us new life in Christ.

Wishing us all a holy and blessed Easter!

CONTINUING LENTEN/EASTER SEASON SCHEDULE

April 2 – 6:00 Potluck Dinner in FH. Our speaker will be Maureen Foran-Mocete. Her topic will be Child Abuse.

April 9 – 6:00 Potluck Dinner in FH. Speaker on HIV/Aids.

April 13 – Palm Sunday – 11:00 am Worship Service

April 17 – Holy Thursday – Steve Mattice, Lay Leader, is working with Rev. Kisakye to develop a worship experience for this evening – starting time 7PM. Please plan to join us.



Bellvue Heights UMC Signal – April 2014

April 18 – Good Friday – NOON – events at **Brown Memorial UMC** will be led by their youth-traditional pizza lunch will follow the service. Please plan to join in with our mother church and support them. Those who are able, weather permitting, will meet at BHUMC and walk down the hill. Rev. Marti says to bring an umbrella if it is raining; we will be walking around the neighborhood. **At Bellevue Heights** we will hold a prayer vigil with two options: (1) at the church and (2) for those who cannot be at the church, participate from your home and/or office. Starting time will be based on number of participants and the time they choose – suggested times 9AM to 3PM – longer as needed. We will have sign-up boards at the church. Times will be one hour – longer or shorter as needed.

April 20 – EASTER – 7AM Sunrise Service – no TANK – Water Dept. advises work underway does not allow entry again this year. Please plan to attend worship in the sanctuary; however, **there is a change – we need your help** – the traditional breakfast (at approx. 8AM) is in need of a Cook to create/cook the eggs/meats and more – plus we need volunteers to assist with prep – setup and cleanup – Who has these skills? And who can assist? Who will coordinate this? Also, if you plan to attend breakfast, please bring sweet breads, muffins, coffee cakes, etc. If you can help, please advise the church office, the pastor or Jeff Morey, Worship Chair, at jmorey@twcny.rr.com.

11:00 Traditional Easter Worship Service in sanctuary

Looking forward to participating with you. Jwm

NOTE: As a courtesy to Brown leadership, if you plan to attend Good Friday service & lunch, please advise the church office so we can inform Brown of the number attending, in order that they can plan accordingly.

CHRISTIANS IN ACTION – Carol Karins

FOOD PANTRY

I am a little disappointed that our wall of veggies has not grown since we took some of the veggies to the food pantry. We made a push for veggies because Judy Eyer, director of the food pantry, said that was something they needed. What she didn't say was that veggies were only needed right then. We all know that veggies are an integral part of the diet, so let's continue to build the wall bigger than ever and continue our support of a vital ministry within our community. And, of course, the pantry can always use other pantry staples like soup, canned stew, small canned hams, pasta and sauce.

FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE

Last month there was a challenge to people to try to live within the allotted food stamp budget of \$29.86 per week. Besides myself, one other person took the challenge and she has admitted that she was surprised that, even with her planning and frugality, she failed to meet the goal. Her expenditures totaled \$58.56 – almost double the allotted amount. She stated, "Fresh fruit (apples, oranges, bananas) is costly. The only way I can think of saving in that area is to eat only one-half of a piece at a time. I made soup twice during the week, which was good for 6 servings. I stretched 2 chicken breasts as far as possible by using them in soup and stir-fry. I incorporated rice and beans to stretch meals. After thinking it over, I could have done without my sugar-free foods for



the challenge, but these are items I would not want to give up forever. This challenge has made me extremely aware of all those who suffer from hunger every day and has pushed me to give more.” Awareness of any social issue is a positive step but, if we don’t act on our awareness, we are not doing the work of the Lord.

RECEIVE GOD’S LOVE; EMBRACE GOD’S LOVE; SHARE GOD’S LOVE; SHOW GOD’S LOVE; BE GOD’S LOVE TO THE WORLD.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



We actually were able to get outside with the children (I think only one day so far, but it’s a start!) We are happy for at least some sun peeking through. This week we welcomed the Roisin Academy of Irish Dance for a wonderful St. Patrick’s Day performance and our preschoolers were invited to join in and dance at the end. It is always so much fun to make time for a community event within our school day and the

children and families all enjoyed it. So many of the dancers were current or former BHNS students so it is great to see how the children have grown and changed.

Our BHNS/Jowonio collaborative staff enjoyed a staff day on team building and identifying our strengths as individuals and a team at the beginning of the month. Our day was at the Beattie Sanctuary and Arboretum in Cazenovia and we highly recommend this peaceful, welcoming site.

Please save the date for our 3rd Annual BHNS Fun Run to support our program. It will be Saturday, May 31 at 11 am and it is a great time to see our preschoolers in action and support our school with a donation if you would like. You can also donate directly on our website through PayPal’s secure site by visiting us at www.bellvueheightsnurseryschool.org.

Like you, we are looking forward to all the new beginnings the better weather and blooming spring will bring. We are ready!

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CHURCH LIBRARY – Children’s Easter Books Available

Our church library volunteer, Barbara Sullivan, has arranged Easter books for children on the round table in the library to be available for the Sunday school class and for families to visit and borrow. These books may be taken home, whether you remember to sign the card in the back or not. The request is that they be returned after Easter. PLEASE VISIT OUR CHURCH LIBRARY! Talk with Barbara if you have any questions.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Keep your eyes peeled for Signup Sheets on the Church hallway bulletin board.
- Volunteers are needed for:
- RIDES (weekly) (occasionally) – days available
- SPRING YARD CLEANUP
- WINDOW WASHING
- OTHER?



Bellvue Heights UMC Signal – April 2014

If you or a church youth you know would be available to do any of these tasks as volunteers or as a church fundraiser, you will be able to sign up on these sheets.

Thanks!

Linda Bergh

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UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S NEWS

The Crossroads District Morning Apart will be held on Saturday, April 5th, from 9:15-Noon at Clay United Methodist Church. New Reading List books will be available. Please call Jeanie Brown at 478-6188 or Linda Parton at 469-3460 to register or find out directions.

Bellevue's UMW will be having a meeting on April 22nd, at 7:00 pm. We will be collecting the Prayer and Self-Denial offering and listening to a speaker from Vera House. All are welcome!

The Spring District meeting will be held on Saturday, May 17th, at Brewerton United Methodist Church. For reservations call Linda or Jeanie, or Beth Magill at 668-5540.

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MESSAGE FROM TRUSTEES

The Trustees are asking your cooperation in the disposal of trash and recyclables. **Please** do not put garbage bags in the maintenance rooms. If you should fill a garbage bag, please take it to the garage and put it in the trash bin. **Please** break down your cardboard boxes. The Trustees are trying to fine tune the trash/recyclable issue, so we are asking for everyone's cooperation.

Thank you.

THANK YOU

From the Life Dancers Group: On behalf of Rev. Deborah Kalya and Life Dancers, thank you for having us last weekend (March 16). It was truly a great opportunity. Thank you for contributing to our ministry. We hope to see you all again and may God bless you abundantly for your kind hearts and generosity towards us. Thank you again. God bless.

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From Diane Dermody: Thank you to all who have donated items for the Church World Service school kits and health kits. A delivery of 101 school kits and 42 health kits was recently taken to the Syracuse Branch office of Church World Service. What a great mission you all have assisted in. In addition, thank you to Ann Toscano for sewing most of the school kit bags. We continue to accept school and health kit items all year round, so keep them coming.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Youth Sunday school class enhanced our Lenten Sunday worship services with their enactment of "Stations of the Cross" --- events in the last days of Jesus' life. These visual reminders were directed by teacher, Mike Streissguth, and scripted by Jeanie Brown. Appreciation goes to Rev. Kisakye for the original concept. These mini-dramas were good meditations for our congregation's "journey toward Easter".

Camping opportunities, with many choices are available to children and youth, ages 6-18. The early registration deadline is May 1st. Bring-a-friend discount is \$25. Anyone interested in an



experience at one of our United Methodist church camps should see Diane Dermody, Rev. Kisakye or Linda Bergh for application and scholarship information. Many thanks to Mike Huber, Director of Camping Ministries, for his willingness to spend time with our congregation!

What are we learning in Sunday school? You'll have to ask our children and youth! You'll hear lots of activity going on in the Children's class on Sunday mornings! Adult class continues the consideration of our Social Principles plus general life issues and faith application. Hopefully, all are being reminded of Jesus' love for us and our need to share that love with one another. Perhaps, in this day and age, we can remind the world about The Golden Rule! Come join us at 9:45 each Sunday!

Linda Bergh
Christian Education Coordinator

April Birthdays



Happy Birthday to you!!!

Please notify the office by phone or e-mail with additions or corrections.

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|----|-----------------------|----|--------------------|
| 01 | Leslie Streissguth | 19 | Judith Sands |
| 02 | Constance Kelly | 20 | Bryan Leonard |
| 03 | Arthur Snow | | Dana Lynn Wade |
| 04 | Kailya Kritzer | | Melissa Ulm |
| 05 | Kimberly Jameson | | Molly Callaghan |
| 08 | Peter Wallace | 22 | Janet Davis |
| 09 | Greg Hamilton | | Lucy Anne Brown |
| | Michael Wojenski, Jr. | | Robert Large |
| 10 | Brishen McGuire | 23 | Alfred Nielsen |
| 11 | Michael Swift | | Michael Berman |
| 12 | Jada Doss | 24 | Dori Ann Fischer |
| | John Strong | | Matthew Townley |
| | Lily Strohecker | | Patrick O'Connor |
| | Sandra Cutler | 25 | Casey Callaghan |
| 13 | Linda Lear | | Craig Martin, Jr. |
| 14 | Kenneth Lombard | | Nancy James |
| | Nancy Arnold | | Shirley Scott |
| 15 | Amy Collin | 26 | Patricia Gloop |
| | Lucas Starkey | 28 | Allison Cherundolo |
| 16 | Mary Drake | | Joan Vosbury |
| 17 | Emily Crain | 29 | John Dancks |
| | Joseph Strock | | Oliver Crain |
| | Sandra O'Connor | 30 | Jeanie Brown |



Todd Gloo
18 Adam Shanebrook
19 Dawn Starkey
Gloria Brunner
Jim Montgomery

Katelyn Bygall

Youth Group 2014

Save the following dates for some exciting activities for youth in Grades 6-12:

April 6th Laser tag after church
April 12th (Sat.) Earth Day cleaning 9 am to 12 pm
April 20th No meeting
April 27th No meeting

If you have any questions, please call:

Diane Dermody or **THANKFUL GOD MOMENTS** by Bethany Printup-Davis

(Continued from March Signal)

Despite the typical awkward years of middle school and high school, I found a constant in my life: I gravitated toward music as my escape from my feelings of loneliness, mistrust, and hurt. I was singing and creating tunes to distract myself from understanding those experiences. Failed grade-school friendships, disintegrating familial relationships could have put me on a painful path, but something or someone kept me going back to the arts. Music essentially got me to college.

After high school, I found myself leaving the only community I had ever known. I found myself in Rochester attending a private college in a completely foreign community. I was happy studying music; happy enjoying meeting new and different people, but the concept of diversity and multiculturalism became real to me – something else was missing. I missed the concept of home; I missed my family; yet, I believe something or someone kept me in Rochester getting my education. I found myself returning to my roots. I formed new relations and learned new perspectives on history and Native American history as I changed my area of study. The relationships I formed while studying history led me to becoming more involved in campus ministry.

Any type of faith structure or belief was never a constant in my life. I never really had faith in faith. Campus ministry introduced me to being a part of the body of Christ – a limb I could really grasp at this time in my life. I was rediscovering myself culturally and spiritually, and breaking down, piece by piece, any walls I had built up. I kept hearing about how, often times, college leads many away from church. I thank campus ministry, as well as my college experience – one full of love and acceptance – and my own patience to embrace the situation God had put me in, for allowing me to learn about the Light inside of me that had been trying to break free. That light broke through when I attended my first Student Forum through the General Board of Higher Education Ministries (GBHEM) in 2009. To be continued...

(Bethany Printup-Davis is a member of the Upper New York
Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM).

Conference's



Laura Mattice

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL:

- April 6 – 5th Sunday in Lent** – Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45
- April 13 – Palm Sunday Liturgy** – Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; **Passion Sunday Liturgy** – Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54
- April 17 – Holy Thursday** – Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- April 18 – Good Friday** – Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42
- April 20 – Easter** – Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10
- April 27 – 2nd Sunday of Easter** – Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

COFFEE HOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

April	Friends in Faith and Fellowship
May	Choir
June	Finance
July/August	Congregation Signups
September	Evangelism
October	Youth Group
November	Christian Education
December	United Methodist Women
January	Trustees
February	Staff Parish
March	Christians in Action

USHERS FOR APRIL:

- Head Usher – Art Snow
- Regular Ushers – Dawn Daggett, Jim & Dottie Montgomery



The following is Josh Mattice’s open and honest response to a request that he share some thoughts about his faith. We hope there will be more sharing, youth or adults, still to come.

BEING A FAITHFUL TEENAGER IN 2014
by Josh Mattice

Today, we live in a society that is fundamentally different from what it used to be. The advent of liberal reforms in society, while Christian in nature, propose a detriment to classical religious practices. I, as a teenager in 2014, deal with the noticeable progression of a strong atheist/agnostic/unaligned movement. I face many rebuttals for my religious choices; and the fact that I am open enough to discuss them, often leads to sneers or the disregard of my opinion on matters. Even though it is my duty as a Christian to make God’s word available to all who will hear it, I cannot force them to listen, even many of my close friends. I see that I am one of only a few people who remain steadfast to their religion, inside and outside of school. I have chosen to ignore the doubts that the world puts on me, through people and through classes, for the sense of completion that faith brings me.

As a science student, I am told of the random chances that occurred for us to develop as we did. There are no allowances for religious attitudes in a classroom setting, and the ideas behind agnosticism inadvertently take precedence. While it may sound less faithful than I intend it to, I do not align with Christianity because I know that God exists. In truth, none of us knows. I have chosen to devote my mind and heart to His purpose because I believe that He does. I have a strength of belief that many in my generation have lost. I rely on the safety of a God whom I can count on to protect me. While others deny Him because of a “lack of proof”, and their inability to believe in something intangible, I believe because I would be lost in the world without His light. I need to believe that God is real because the alternative, an existence devoid of purpose, is a concept that I cannot cope with. I am faithful because it is my faith which drives me to be better, to help others. My faith is not casual, my faith is not convenience. My faith is necessity.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:



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|------------------------------|-----------|
| Kathryn and Robert Steel | 4/03/1953 |
| Elizabeth and Jeffrey Morey | 4/06/1968 |
| Joanne and Randall Bygall | 4/16/1983 |
| Linda and Patrick Rankin | 4/19/1980 |
| Lisa and Stephen Shope | 4/20/1996 |
| Janet Hamly Ott and John Ott | 4/23/1984 |

Please notify the church office, by e-mail (bellvueheights@cnyemail.com) or by phone (315-475-0011) of any necessary changes.

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Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Mar 19th 12 gathered at 7:00 A. M. for breakfast at Fairmount Wegmans. **Mr. Steve Ranous** spoke about **United Methodist Men**. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday April 16th** at 7:00 AM at Fairmount Wegmans. Our speaker will be **Ms. Lee Wilder** from the **Ronald McDonald House**.

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Love Gift Applications

On Student Sunday each June, Love Gift checks are presented to those student members who are continuing their post-high school education in a two-year, four-year or five-year undergraduate degree program or in a state-certified educational program of study for six or more months.

Applications are available at the end of the mailboxes next to the stairs or by going to our website (www.bellevueheights.org – click on Forms & Downloads). They are to be completed and returned to Linda in the church office or Gloria Brunner by June 1st. Remember: Students must re-apply for each qualifying year. If you need an application mailed, please call the church office (475-0011) or Gloria Brunner (492-3393).