



### **Update on ‘Rethinking Syracuse Methodism’**

The ‘Rethinking Syracuse Methodism’ effort has been blessed so far with tremendous participation from each of our eight Syracuse churches. The effort has allowed us to start to come together in some new ways as we consider our future together. This article provides a brief summary of activities so far, and a quick look forward.

The Leadership Team created as part of the effort started to meet during May. The team includes laity from each of the eight churches, our clergy team, our District Superintendent, and Rev. Lauren Swanson who is acting in a consulting role. The team is working together to understand and navigate through the change which is upon us now, in the form of a new structure and new appointments. Soon, the team hopes to also begin considering where God might be leading us as we plan for the future.

The team met twice in May. So far the focus of our meetings has been on understanding and preparing for the new appointments and the more team oriented approach our clergy will be taking starting in the summer and fall. Each of our churches will begin to see multiple clergy in their offices and in their pulpits starting this summer. Some churches will also see a change in schedule as we accommodate pastors who will be preaching at multiple locations.

Two Working Groups established by the Leadership Team will start meeting within the next couple of weeks. The groups will be starting to look at Missions and Nurture. Early on the Missions Group will help us find some simple ways to bring us together as we serve Syracuse. Eventually, the group will develop a larger strategy for Missions and Outreach in our city. The Nurture Group will also start finding some ways to bring us together for worship and fellowship opportunities while beginning to develop plans for the future in these areas.

Looking ahead, here are some things that can be expected from the ‘Rethinking’ effort in the near future:

#### **Update on ‘Rethinking Syracuse Methodism’ (Cont’d from p. 1)**

- 1) The Leadership Team will develop a clearer understanding of how we operate in the structure created by our new appointments. The appointments have us continuing as independent churches while working together in a new structure. The Leadership Team hopes to clarify how the new clergy structure will work with our still independent churches.
- 2) The infrastructure will be developed to provide improved communications. We hope to have a web site in place by the fall which will start by providing information on our ‘Rethinking’ process itself. It is our hope that this site will grow to something which brings a new sense of connection to our churches by providing information about worship, programs and missions. We also expect that weekly worship bulletins and monthly newsletters will start to contain more collective information.
- 3) The Working Groups will provide some opportunities to come together in mission, worship, and fellowship – We hope to start intentionally coming together in small ways, to build connection as we continue to plan our future in these areas.
- 4) We will all start to see emerging plan for our future – The ‘Rethinking’ effort will ultimately need to consider where God is leading us in order to serve our city and nurture our faith communities. Developing a successful plan will continue to depend upon our



churches, working groups, leadership teams, and our clergy coming together in faith as we consider our future.

Please keep the City of Syracuse and our 'Rethinking' effort in your prayers. Coming together and finding a path forward is difficult, but filled with opportunity. May God give us the faith to make some difficult but necessary changes, and the wisdom to understand His will for us as we journey together.

Mike Nevins, Chair, Leadership Team  
Erwin First UMC

CHRISTIANS IN ACTION – Carol Karins

### **FOOD PANTRY**

We need to keep building our wall of veggies. It has not grown much since we took some of the veggies to the food pantry. Since veggies are an integral part of the diet, 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 and paper products: toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, etc.

### **ANNUAL SPENDING BY FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18**

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, families receiving public assistance spend on average less than half as much as families that don't receive public assistance. For instance, in recent testing of spending patterns, families not receiving public assistance spent \$9,539 per year for food whereas families receiving public assistance spent \$6,460 for the same period. Families not receiving public assistance spent \$22,833 on housing while those receiving public assistance spent \$11,835. Those not on public assistance spent \$11,249 for transportation and those on public assistance spent \$5,271.

Considering those very moderate figures, it's safe to say that most of the folks receiving public assistance are *not* on welfare for selfish personal gain, but because they actually *need* the support. These numbers also prompt important questions about opportunity in the U.S. For example, families that don't receive public assistance spend an average of 382% more on insurance and retirement than families that rely on public assistance. How might a family's ability, or lack thereof, to invest in the future impact economic mobility for their future generations?

Numbers aside, instead of pointing fingers at poor people and spreading false generalizations about them, wouldn't we be much better off working together to ensure all families have a fair chance at healthy, productive and fulfilled lives?

**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



The school year is too quickly coming to a close and we are beginning to plan out our last month of the school calendar. How is that even possible? On Thursday and Friday, June 12 and 13, we have our End of Year Celebrations beginning at 10:45. Please feel welcomed to visit us on these days. It is a great way to see this part of the BHUMC community up close and we would love to have you. Give Deb Coman a call at 475-2344 if you would like more

information or just stop in to the Fellowship Hall on those mornings.

Another quick reminder that our 3rd Annual Fun Walk and Run takes place on Saturday, May 31 at 11 am. on the grass near the playground. Sponsorships of all levels are available for those interested. You can contact Deb or make a general donation through our PayPal button at [www.bellevueheightsnurseryschool.org](http://www.bellevueheightsnurseryschool.org). We also continue to have the lovely Beads for Learning Bracelets available for purchase at any time and particularly at our Fun Run as another way to support our Nursery School.

Families are continuing to tour and our last few Monday/Wednesday/Friday 4-year-old program spots are starting to fill. If you know anyone interested, please have them call Deb soon.

We hope you are enjoying the return to the great outdoors as much as we and the children are! We are planning Bike Days and other outdoor fun for early June to soak in as much of the sunshine as possible!

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### SPECIAL EVENT!!

On Sunday, June 15, 2014, Brown Memorial UMC and the Syracuse Westside Mission will bid farewell to their Pastor, Project Director and Friend, **REV. MARTHA SWORDS-HORRELL**. Rev. Jeff Childs of Penn Yan UMC will preach at the 11:00 worship service, as everyone says thanks for the four years Rev. Marti has served God through Brown Memorial, SWUM and the Westside community of Syracuse. After the service, there will be a gathering time to reminisce with Rev. Marti. All are invited to attend. Please RSVP: [swumccw@gmail.com](mailto:swumccw@gmail.com).

### TERRIFIC T'S SUMMER PROGRAM 2014 (SWUM)

Greetings and blessings to you all!

This is a reminder for those of you that are interested to support the Syracuse Westside Urban Mission summer program this year. Remember that you can do one week (2 days) or two weeks (4 days). We run the program every Tuesday & Thursday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, ages 5 to 18. Last year the bigger kids worked as helpers. If you need VBS materials, we can provide some to you. If you want to bring your own activities, you can do that, too. Here are the weeks we will be running the program:

- Tuesday & Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday & Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup> and July 17<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday & Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> and July 24<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday & Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>



# **Bellvue Heights UMC Signal** – June 2014

Tuesday & Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> & August 7<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday & Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> & August 14<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday & Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup> & August 21<sup>st</sup>.

We appreciate very much if you can let us know your availability as soon as you can, so we can plan and count on you.

In Christ,

Olga E. Gonzalez, MSW  
Missionary/Church and Community Worker  
Syracuse Westside Urban Mission  
Brown Memorial UMC  
228 Davis Street  
Syracuse, NY 13204  
Phone: (315) 475-8996  
Email: swumccw@gmail.com

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## SUMMER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

### **Vacation Bible School**

There is something happening this summer! St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 2200 Valley Drive, invites children from our church to Vacation Bible School, “Workshop of Wonders”, from Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30-8:00 pm.

Dinner will be held each night at 5:30 and an ending celebration on Thursday for both children and families will run past 8:00 pm.

For Bellevue Heights UMC children and friends who wish to participate, as well as for youth and adult volunteers, registration forms are available in our own church office/hall table or you may register directly with St. Paul’s. See insert. Let Rev. Kisakye or Linda Bergh know of your participation. Carpooling from Bellevue Heights to St. Paul’s will be made available if needed.

### **Camp Open Houses**

Don’t forget Camp Open Houses – a great opportunity for you and parents to check out summer church camp opportunities: Aldersgate Open House on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2-7:00 pm and Casowasco Open House on Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2-7:00 pm.

Continue to grow, learn and explore in God’s world this summer!

Linda Bergh  
Christian Ed. Coordinator  
(315) 492-8507

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HOLY HUMOR

The Lord Is My Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible – Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Rick was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

June Birthdays



Happy Birthday to you!!!

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

	01	Jennifer Davis	17	Jeffrey Morey
03	Brendan Kinnell		Stephanie Sherwood	
	Megan Vinette		Matthew Cutler	
04	Gretchen Karins	18	Cathy Waelde	
06	Betty Vaughn	19	Matthew Martin	
	Beverly Large		Colleen Kinnell	
07	Kathryn Steele	20	Pauline Filsinger	
	Taylor Lounsbery	21	Clifford Crain III	
08	Amithy Long	22	Nellie Hamlin	
09	Elizabeth Henry		Geoffrey Lewis	
	Lorena Lewis	24	Terry Durham, Jr.	
	William Martin	25	Jessica Bygall	
10	Irene Barmore		Shannon O'Leary	
	Alexandra Hill-Gilbert	26	Marlon Woolner	
11	Eric Wilson		Elizabeth Newman	
12	Douglas Lewis	27	Patrick Rankin	
	Gregory Forties		Maura Kusak McGuire	
	Jeremy Castle	28	Isabella Melson	
	Robert Shanebrook		Christopher Sands	
14	Peter Ott	29	Ursula Hubby	
	Sara Yoder		Jamie O'Leary	

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MORE HOLY HUMOR

Did Noah Fish?

A Sunday School teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"



## **Youth Group 2014**

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

June 1<sup>st</sup>      Sunday School Picnic and Road Rally after church

June 8<sup>th</sup>      Neighborhood Food Drive ***OR*** Picnic at Oxford Inn (either will end with a trip to Gannon's Ice Cream)

If you have any questions, please call:  
Diane Dermody or Laura Mattice

*Matthew 25 Farm Trip on May 18<sup>th</sup>*: Five youth and five adults ventured out on what started out as a rainy day and ended up being a partly cloudy day to the Matthew 25 Farm in Tully, NY. We arrived and started working immediately after a short orientation meeting. We planted a variety of seeds which included fruits and vegetables in growing trays. Next we headed to the fields to perform several different tasks which included planting corn, planting peas, planting spruce trees and digging small trenches around the planted fields to keep the water running down the hills from washing away parts of the planted fields. Yes, we got wet, muddy and dirty hands, but we washed up great once we were done. It is a great feeling to know that the work that we did will help to feed many this year. The farm is always looking for volunteers so, if you are interested, please check out their website at [www.matthew25farm.com](http://www.matthew25farm.com).

THANKFUL GOD MOMENTS by Bethany Printup-Davis  
(Continued from May Signal)

### **Embrace the God Moments**

“God is good all the time; and all the time...God is good.” God moments happen when we least expect them, and even if we are not aware of them at the time.

I realize now that God gave me a gift of music, even when I didn't know Him that well. And it was during life's valleys I learned the power of His gift.

Today, I look differently at music, and I thank God for this gift. For it was His love and grace in music that led me through my youth and through my college years, which brought me to the foot of the cross and back into my Father's arms: A place where I am free to be me – a Tuscarora child of the Light.

We sometimes skim over the little things in life as we get caught up in preparing for the extra-busy times of the year. So, brothers and sisters, let us take time to remember and embrace the God moments in our lives that have helped shape us into the children of God we are today.



# Bellvue Heights UMC Signal – June 2014

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

Conference's

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## BETTER THINK BEFORE WE ACT UNHOLY!

The light turned yellow just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup. As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer, who ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted to the back of the building where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing the horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally ...I assumed you had stolen the car."

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE:

**June 1 – "Moving Up" Day/Ascension Sunday** - Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 and John 17:1-11

**June 8 – Graduation Sunday/Pentecost** – Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 and John 7:37-39

**June 15 – Father's Day/Trinity Sunday** – Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 and Matthew 28:16-20

**June 22** – Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 or Psalm 17; Romans 6:1b-11 and Matthew 10:24-39

**June 29** – Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23 and Matthew 10:40-42

## COFFEE HOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

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



# **Bellvue Heights UMC Signal** – June 2014

April  
May

Friends in Faith and Fellowship  
Choir

## USHERS FOR JUNE:

Head Usher – Ray Brunner  
Regular Ushers – Carol Karins, Ted Jewett, Linda Parton

### **Enjoy an Opportunity to Send a Kid to Camp!!**

Syracuse Westside Urban Mission is seeking **Camperships** to send 30 kids (1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) from Syracuse’s West side to Camp Casowasco this summer.

Give our kids a chance to get out in God’s beautiful creation, to learn about Jesus and the love of Christian community, to try new skills and learn new games and sports and to grow in spirit and character.

4 levels are available: from partial to full scholarships!

- \$50.....Camper Buddy
- \$100.....Camper Friend
- \$200.....Camper Half Sponsor
- \$400.....Camper Full Sponsor

Please fill out the information below and send with your check payable to “Syracuse Westside Urban Mission” by US Mail to: Marcia Lee, Treasurer, Syracuse Westside Urban Mission, 101 Wedgewood Terrace, DeWitt, NY 13214.

For more information, call Esther Crossman (849-6737) or e-mail Olga Gonzalez, MSW at [swumccw@gmail.com](mailto:swumccw@gmail.com). All donations are tax deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Level of Giving \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_





**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

**Congratulations to:**



Bev & Bob Large	6/06/59
Sara & Craig Yoder	6/07/86
Sandy & David Cole	6/07/91
Laura & Steve Mattice	6/09/90
Brianne & Isaac Santiago	6/09/01
Susan & Gordon Spooner	6/15/74
Pam Martin & Richard Louer	6/21/80
Judith & Christopher Sands	6/21/86
Stephen & Lyndsie Mangano	6/21/08
Lisa & Robert McIntyre	6/25/88
Meghan and Todd Doss	6/29/01

Please notify the church office, either by e-mail or phone, of any necessary changes.

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**Men’s Fellowship Breakfast**

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, we gathered at 7:00 A. M. for breakfast at Fairmount Wegmans. Ms. Karen Belgrader, representing the Samaritan Center, was our speaker. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 AM** at Fairmount Wegmans. Our speaker will be **Dr. James Wiggins** from **Interfaith Works & The First Tee**. Hope to see you there!

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**OXY MORONS IN THE CHURCH**

The word *oxymoron* comes from the Greek words for “sharp fool.” That’s the only way to describe phrases like “jumbo shrimp,” “deafening silence,” and “freezer burn.” You may have heard these oxymoron’s at church: “board consensus,” “creative worship,” “brief treasurer’s report,” “work party,” “Junior high sleepover,” “men’s fellowship,” “close-knit staff,” “simple request,” “Bus ministry”, and “my final point.”