



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Effective July 1, six pastors have been appointed to the City of Syracuse United Methodist Church by Bishop Mark Webb. Rev. Craig French is the team's coordinator and others on the team are Revs. Patience Kisakye, Doug Mackey, Caroline Simmons and E. Chip and Lillian Owens. Rev. Lauren Swanson will serve as a coach for pastors and lay leaders and will be part of the preaching rotation during the summer before he heads to his new appointment in Penfield on Sept. 1. The Owenses will be on board Sept. 1. In addition, a parallel group of pastors will be assigned to Syracuse to start new churches and ministries aimed at reaching a variety of ethnic groups and age groups not found in the existing eight churches.

Rev. Dr. Patience Kisakye has 26 years of service between the Methodist Church in East Africa and the UMC in the U.S. Currently appointed to Bellevue Heights UMC. Background in education, specialties in African and European history accredited by Kyambogo School of Education in Uganda. Master of Arts in Religious Communication from United Theological in Dayton, Ohio; Master of Divinity from Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois; Doctor of Ministry from South Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology.

Rev. Doug Mackey completed his seminary studies at Drew Theological School, after 30 years as an archaeologist, and was commissioned as a provisional elder in 2013, hoping to be ordained as an elder in 2015. Currently appointed to Rockefeller UMC, active in supporting the ministries of The ROAD, working with the CNY-HIV Care Network and serving on the Bishop's Task Force for Discussion on Sexuality. Served as Licensed Local Pastor at First UMC in Schenectady where he was introduced to urban ministry. Married to Sherri, daughters Alexandra and Alyssa and son Mike. Enjoys reading, getting involved with important issues and sports of all kinds.

Rev. Caroline Simmons graduated from Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School with a Master of Divinity degree. Upon graduation from CRCDS, she served part-time at Fowlerville UMC while also working part-time at Asbury First UMC in Rochester. She served Emmanuel UMC in Lockport for three years while working to be commissioned as a provisional elder in the Western NY Conference. She served a two-point charge at Little Utica and Warners and, in 2010, was ordained at the first gathering of the Upper NY Annual Conference. Currently serves Collamer United Church and St. Paul's UMC. Enjoys scuba diving, is a former instructor, and has an Australian Shepherd/Border Collie dog named Kelsea. Looking ahead, Caroline said, "In simple terms, I believe that God is calling us to be more than what we have been and do more than what we have done in ministry so far. It is going to be quite the journey, but worth taking the steps to travel together and grow in our faith and service to others."

Rev. Craig French majored in international relations and diplomacy at American University in Washington, D.C. and received his seminary training at Boston University School of Theology with a major in social ethics. The best years of his ministry have been spent in urban ministry in Buffalo and Syracuse (past 6 years) at University UMC. He has also served suburban and college town churches. He and wife, Barbara, have three grown children and are helping to raise two granddaughters, ages 9 and 4. When he is not driving the girls somewhere, he enjoys hiking, reading, kayaking, art, poetry, travel, SU sports and the Red Sox. Craig has long stated that, "If nothing is done to change the status quo, the end result is clear: one by one all of our city churches will disappear. Unsettling as these new plans and arrangements may be for current members, the goal (like a family intervention) is to bring health and wholeness to urban ministry in Syracuse, so that all may know life that is abundant, free and joyful."

Revs. E. Chip and Lillian Owens are 2014 graduates of Gammon Theological Seminary on the campus of The Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. He holds a B.S. degree in Communications Entertainment Media Production from the University of North Alabama and she holds a B.S. degree in Music Education from Alabama A&M University. They plan to continue their academic pursuits with doctoral degrees in the future. E. Chip published his first book in 2012 entitled "21 Days of Worship: A Devotional for



the Worshipper in You.” The Owenses have a 1-year old son, Josiah. They enjoy reading, watching movies and playing music. They are both excited about their move to Syracuse.

Rev. Lauren Swanson has been in the United Methodist ministry since 1983. Studied philosophy at SUNY Fredonia and SU and graduated from the Iliff School of Theology. His continuing education has focused on congregational development and organization systems. From 2005 to 2010 Lauren served as Director of Congregational Development for the North Central New York Conference. He hopes that, as he works with the Interim Leadership Team, the District Superintendent and the pastoral staff of the city churches, a powerful new way of being God’s church in Syracuse will emerge.

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.

COMMITTEE on NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES (CONAM)

I am the representative from Bellevue Heights UMC to the Committee on Native American Ministries. I recently attended a workshop that gave an overview of the Methodist Church’s involvement in creating a sometimes hostile relationship with indigenous peoples in the world. The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns has asked the people of the United Methodist Church be on a spiritual journey that begins with words spoken at the Act of Repentance at the General Conference of 2012. We have been invited to confess to God many of the atrocities, injustices and indignities we have committed, through sins of omission and commission, against indigenous and native individuals and communities. Descendants of the people who suffered from the sins of the past suffer today in varying degrees through historical trauma, societal breakdown and cultural genocide. I will try to capture more of the work we need to do as a community of faith and as individuals in the next two or three Signals. As we hear in James 2:26: “For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so faith apart from works is dead.” Carol A. Karins

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 have been busy with Parent Teacher conferences and planning for next year already! Our 3-year-old program has a waiting list for September but there are still a few spots for the Monday-Wednesday-Friday 4-year-old program. Please have interested families call Deb at 475-2344.

This month we also had a visit from the Rosamund Gifford



Bellvue Heights UMC Signal – May 2014

Zoo to You program. Over two visits to the program, the children got to meet a parrot, opossum, millipede, bearded dragon and skink. It was really quite exciting and educational. The Zoo really focuses on educating us all to support animal and rainforest preservation.

In addition to saving the date for our 3rd Annual Fun Run on Saturday, May 31, we hope you will consider supporting our Beads for Learning Bracelet fundraiser. We are selling beautiful zulu grass and beaded bracelets made by the Maasai women of East Africa and promoted by The Leakey Collection to sell their handmade wares to support their families and tribe. The Leakey Collection made the bracelets available to us at a low cost so that we could support the Maasai tribe and raise funds for the nursery school at the same time. If you are interested in these unique \$10 bracelets, please give us a call, stop in, or visit our facebook page at Bellevue Heights Nursery School to get more information.

You may have noticed the eye-catching pinwheels around the sign near the road. April is Child Abuse Awareness Month, recognized by the McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Center through participation in Pinwheels for Prevention. Why pinwheels? Pinwheels were chosen because they are a symbol of a happy and healthy childhood. Through a donation of pinwheels to the nursery school, we planted them near our sign to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect. We support the McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Center and their efforts to raise awareness in Syracuse and beyond. We hope you enjoy the reminder that every child deserves a happy childhood!

Volunteers are needed for:

- RIDES (weekly) (occasionally) – days available
- SPRING YARD CLEANUP
- WINDOW WASHING
- OTHER?

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 Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 17th, from 9:00-2:00 at Brewerton United Methodist Church, 5395 Orangeport Road, Brewerton. The theme will be “Learning Together for the Transformation of the World” through The Rwanda of Today. Guest speaker is Rev. Susan Hariff. For reservations call Jeanie Brown at 478-6188 or Linda Parton at 469-3460 by May 9th. Cost of Lunch: \$8.00.

Our next UMW meeting will be on Tuesday, May 27th, in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm. All are welcome!

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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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

What a year this has been! A new “All-Together” class of students, a Youth class which has done mission projects and has given leadership in worship, and an Adult class that continues to have lively discussions on United Methodist Social Principles.

On Sunday, June 1st, the Sunday School will have its annual “Moving Up” Day, which includes recognition of Cradle Roll, Children and Youth during worship followed by a Sunday School picnic and Road Rally.

Children and Youth are asked to come to their last class on Sunday, June 1st, at 9:45, then sit with their families during worship for “moving up” introductions and, finally, to be ready for the fun picnic with food and games afterward. Everyone in the congregation is invited to the picnic at a local park (mystery!), so come dressed in picnic clothes!

Sunday, June 8th, will be Graduation Sunday, during which graduating seniors from high school and college will be honored and “Love Gifts” presented. Please be sure to attend. Let the office or Linda Bergh know if there are names we might miss.

Linda Bergh
Christian Education Coordinator – 492-8507

P.S. You can still sign up for camp. Scholarship money is available! Check with the office or Diane Dermody.

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WANTED: LITURGISTS

Hello Bellevue-ites:

The liturgist list is getting LOW again – I am looking for people to read scriptures and prayers during the Sunday service as listed in the bulletin. Please e-mail me at ljparton@bluefrog.com or call me at 469-3460; OR call church @ 475-0011. Thank you.

Linda Parton

P.S. You get to see what the other side of the church looks like!

May Birthdays



Happy Birthday to you!!!

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



01	Christopher Kelly James Hamilton	15	Robert Brown Sean Hamilton
02	Neal Collin	16	Zoe Fortin
03	Susan Kroft Alex Black Judith Beach Marlena Foster	19 20	Ethan Ulm Elizabeth Morey Halle MacKnight Roger Christopherson
04	Cindy Carpenter Gail Shields	21	Valerie Mattice Claire Kinnell
05	Ann Barnes		Sarah Hernandez
06	Devin Wojcik Norman Hatt Patricia Wilson Chris Kinnell	22 23 24	Lori D'Alterio Matthew Dermody Ozzie Mocete C. Anthony Roseamellia
07	Mike Drake Lydia Saarie		David Nogash
08	James Sherwood Winfred Corey Cynthia Markovitz	25 26	Kathleen Riebel Lisa McIntyre Will Streissguth Stephanie Shanebrook
10	Dorothy McIntyre Eric Brown Aiden McGuire		Andrea Hensen David McIntyre
11	Maegen Mocete	27	Rebecca Katura
12	John Shope Jessica Blair	28 30	Stephen Kroft Marcia Hill Robert Behnke
13	Ryan Drake Anthony Roseamellia		John Williams
14	Dale Foster Donna Kramer		

Youth Group 2014

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

May 4th Miniature Golf @ Fairmount Glen; ice cream at Carol's Polar Parlor. Meet at church 6 pm

May 11th Mother's Day – no meeting

May 18th Working at Matthew 25 Farm. Working during Sunday School & Church. Leaving church at 9:30 am

May 25th Memorial Day weekend – no meeting

June 1st Sunday School Picnic and Road Rally after



church

June 8th Neighborhood Food Drive/Gannon's IC after Church ***OR*** Picnic at Oxford Inn/Gannon's IC. Meeting at church at 6 pm

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

VOLUNTEER SIGNUPS

Keep your eyes peeled for Signup Sheets on the Church hallway bulletin board.

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

A Spiritual Journey

Three years into college, a lot had changed. I was in the midst of beginning my acknowledged journey of spiritual growth. I was able to meet and witness other Native Americans praise and thank God with every fiber of their beings, not just as His children, but as Native children. They were the Potter's creations being just who God made them to be.

As I finished my last two college years, I was presented with more opportunities to really grow and experience God's love, not just for me, but for the world. I helped lead the Protestant worship and I participated in service and mission trips.

The biggest mission I undertook was in 2010. I traveled with a group of 50 other young Native Americans across the Northwest and got a look into Native American ministry.

As young Native people, we ministered with other Natives and shared our "hope stories." We went to make and build relationships by sharing our experiences of the hope we found through the love of Jesus.

Through my mission and church-related events, I was able to reintroduce myself to music. Relating to others through our own personal struggles and joys of passion made all the difference in the world for me. These opportunities – particularly ones associated with the United Methodist Church, and because of the efforts of campus ministry – presented themselves as a platform for me to continue to share my journey and even affirm my faith. I was baptized and confirmed while at college.

To be continued...

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

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY:

May 4 – Native American Ministries Sunday - Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23 and Luke 24:13-35



Bellvue Heights UMC Signal – May 2014

May 11 – Mother’s Day – Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25 and John 10:1-10

May 18 – Heritage Sunday – Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10 and John 14:1-14

May 25 – Memorial Sunday – Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22 and John 14:15-21

COFFEE HOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

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
April	Friends in Faith and Fellowship

USHERS FOR MAY:

Head Usher – Jim Hamilton
Regular Ushers – Val Mattice, Michael & Kate Veley

LOVE Offering

This year, as we prepare for the Fifth Session of the Upper New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, we will be taking a special LOVE Offering on Sunday, May 25th. Every church is asked to help support ministries and missions here in our area, nationally and globally through this offering. This year, the offering will support various missions and ministries in our Conference through grants awarded by the Reaching Our Neighbors Ministry Oversight Team. In the past, these ministries were supported, in part, by districts in the predecessor conferences; that funding is no longer available. This offering will help restore our support of these valuable missions. Nationally, we will support feeding hungry people through *Stop Hunger Now*, which will be bringing their mobile food-prepping and processing operation to Annual Conference to help us package 75,000 meals while we are gathered together. And globally, through this offering we will help fund a scholarship to Africa University in Zimbabwe.

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CAMILLUS ERIE CANAL PARK

Camillus Erie Canal Park and Sims Store Museum, 5750 DeVoe Road, Camillus, is a 420-acre park open daily year round with free admission and parking. Many groups come by appointment to visit the museum and gift shop, take a narrated boat tour over the historic 1844 Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct and use the picnic area.



Bellvue Heights UMC Signal – May 2014

During the summer, the Dinner Cruises run on Wednesday evenings and some are scheduled on Thursdays. Dates are Wednesdays July 9, 16, 23 and 30 and August 6, 13, 20 and Thursdays July 17 and August 14. Special cruises may also be arranged. The cost is \$26.00/person. Reservations may be made by calling Vicky at 487-7895.

Summer luncheon cruises are also available for \$13.00/person. A group may want to eat lunch in the pavilion and then take a boat ride. Some groups bring their own lunch and then have a tour. There are lots of possibilities. Call Liz at 315-391-7020 for more information.

Kayaks and canoes are welcome and fishing is permitted. There are 14 miles of hiking and biking trails. Come and take advantage of this wonderful park, operated solely by volunteers, some of whom are members of Bellevue Heights UMC.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES



Congratulations to:

Sandy and Patrick O'Connor	5/05/1990
Steven and Adelina Vargas	5/09/2009
Karen and Paul Leonard	5/11/1968
Cindy and Jon Carpenter	5/18/1985
Kathleen and Gregory Riebel	5/20/1988
Chris and Connie Kelly	5/23/1998
Michael and Betsy Tadros	5/24/2008
Timothy and Kim Murphy	5/24/2009
Connie and Roger Simoneau	5/25/2002
Amy and Randall Caccia	5/31/1997

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

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Men's Fellowship Breakfast

On April 16th, 15 gathered at 7:00 A. M. for breakfast at Fairmount Wegmans. A representative from the Ronald McDonald House spoke. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, May 21st, at 7:00 AM** at Fairmount Wegmans. Our speaker will be **Ms. Karen Belgrader** from the Samaritan Center.

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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.

