



**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

**November 2016**

**Stewardship**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The summer is over and we are well into the fall season moving toward winter. It is also that time of year when we focus more on the state of our giving – money, time, and other tangible gifts. This year we are happy to share with you that our stewardship campaign starts on Sunday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>, through Sunday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Following is a brief insight from the author of the program we are using this year.

***Pastor Andy M. Anderson***

**Putting God First in Living and Giving**

Do we worship idols? The answer may surprise you. During this year's stewardship campaign, we will hear about God's generosity and our response as we experience one stewardship program, ***first: putting GOD first in living and giving***, developed by author and pastor, Mike Slaughter of Ginghamburg Church.

We are made in God's image and are meant to be creators of life and hope, not the consumers of our culture's shiny gods. We have the ability to change the world and create a legacy that will live forever in the lives of generations to follow. That legacy starts when each of us takes the hard steps of financial discipline and fulfilling the call to generosity that God has placed in all of us.

The goal of this stewardship program is not to make you feel guilty, nor is it to say that you have to be exactly like this or that person. The goal is for all of us to ask questions of ourselves and be open to the possibility that God will lead us in new directions in our lives.

During the four-week program, we'll be challenged in a number of different ways. We'll be asked to look for the idols in our own lives (Hint: Most of them aren't animals made of gold) and name the ways these idols enslave us, holding us back from living in the true freedom that God desires for us.

We'll be challenged to consider the place that money, work, and debt have in our lives. What are our common understandings of these, and might the witness of Scripture lead us to some different understandings?

We'll be challenged to ask ourselves what it means for us to be faithful, to save, and to give. How do we balance all the competing interests in our lives? What priorities does God want us to have?

Finally, we'll be challenged to give with our hearts, not out of obligation or a sense of duty and not just when we think the recipient deserves our gift. Instead, we'll be challenged to give the way God gives – freely, fully, with no favorites or expectations of repayment.



# **Bellvue Heights UMC Signal** – Nov 2016

It is our prayer that, at the end of these four weeks, we will have begun to grow into the individuals and the church that God knows we can be. Please join us in ***first: putting GOD first in living and giving.***

## **BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK UPDATE**

So far we have delivered weekend food to Delaware Elementary School six times. The children who have received the food have been excited and happy.

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, a \$100/plate Hunger Banquet will be held at the Genesee Grande Hotel from 7-10 pm. All the net proceeds will be given to our Blessings in a Backpack program for Delaware School. Anyone interested in attending, please send a check payable to Bellevue Heights UMC to Jeanie Brown at 114 Upland Road, Syracuse, NY 13207. Please put Blessings in a Backpack on the memo line.

A great thank you to all who have contributed and helped out.

## **BROWN FOOD PANTRY**

Martha Madura advises that the Food Pantry is in dire need of canned vegetables and suggests that we reinstate our Veggie Wall. So please bring in canned vegetables and start to build the wall in the narthex. The usual items are also needed:

- CANNED FRUITS
- PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY
- INSTANT MASHED POTATOES
- CANNED SPAGHETTIO'S & RAVIOLI
- CLEANING ITEMS; PAPER GOODS

Thanks for your cooperation.

+++++

## **ALTAR GUILD**

We will be providing order forms in the bulletin shortly for our Christmas poinsettias. The plants memorializing and honoring our loved ones will be placed in church for the December 18<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services. After that, you can take them home!!

+++++

## **FRIENDS AND FAMILY SUNDAY**

We will celebrate Friends and Family Sunday on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Please invite your friends and family to attend the 9:30 a.m. worship and the special coffee hour in Fellowship Hall following the service.



**NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS**

The weather has allowed us many outside days on the playground. We hope to have several more weeks before the snow flies!

**Our Election Day Bake and Craft Sale on Tuesday, November 8**, is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Nursery school and church families support the program by baking and crafting items to be sold throughout the day while polls are open. You can help with donated items or by signing up to work a shift at the sale or by stopping in to shop on Election Day. **Please invite your friends to support us, too!** If you are interested in helping to work, bake or craft, please **call Kathy Tornatore at 475-2344** for more details and to sign up or just see the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Thank you to the many church members who joined us at Gannon's Isle for BHNS Night in September. Once again, because of your help, it was a huge success! Congratulations to our student, Will Carruth, for being chosen to take home an ice cream cake compliments of Gannon's!

We are in full swing and enjoying these busy, beautiful days! We hope you are making the most of these lovely fall days, too!

+++++

**HEATING SEASON IS HERE**

Now that the heating season is upon us, please remember that our church heating system is broken up into zones and not all zones are heated all the time, so it is important to keep doors closed when you leave a room or the Fellowship Hall. Also, each zone is controlled with a pre-programmed thermostat and, if you are cold, you can obtain heat by pressing the 3-hour occupied button.

**STRATHMORE SPEAKER SERIES**

The Strathmore Speaker Series provides a platform for recognized local experts to share the power of their ideas with the community and is held 6 times per year in the Onondaga Park Firebarn. On **Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**, at 7 pm, Colgate University Professor and star of WCNY's Ivory Tower, Dr. Tim Byrnes, and the League of Women Voters will present a non-partisan explanation of how our electoral system works, how we got to 2016, and where we can expect to go in the future.

+++++

**ROAST BEEF DINNER A GREAT SUCCESS**

Thank you to all the bakers, servers, cooks, dish washers, table setters, cleaner uppers and everyone else who worked on the dinner. We served over 500



# Bellvue Heights UMC Signal – Nov 2016

people altogether between the dining room and take-outs and our profit of about \$2500 is used for the benefit of the church general budget.

+++++

## **UMW NEWS**

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, Linda Bergh led the group in the mission study on the environment which she had attended in September. Hope/Joy Circle was our hostess.

November 15<sup>th</sup> our UMW group will have a program connected with the World Thank Offering. The “Uncircled” women will host this meeting.

### **BROWN CHRISTMAS STORE ITEMS (due by December 12<sup>th</sup>)**

#### **Men:**

S to 4 XL – Tees, Sweats, PJs  
Slippers, socks – all sizes  
Underwear, boxers – all sizes  
Thermal underwear – all sizes

#### **Young girls:** Dolls, jewelry,

art kits, toys ages 6-12

#### **Young boys:** Trucks, cars,

baseballs, basketballs, art kits, toys ages 6-12

#### **Women:**

S to 4XL – Shirts, sweats, hoodies, PJs, jeans  
Slippers, socks – all sizes  
Underwear – all sizes

#### **Teen Girls:**

12 to 20 – hoodies, sweats, tees, PJs, underwear  
Socks, slippers – all sizes

#### **Teen Boys:**

12 to 20 – tees, hoodies, sweats, PJs, underwear  
Socks – all sizes

#### **Kids/Girls & Boys:**

2T to 18 – tees, hoodies, sweats, PJs, underwear, jeans, coats or jackets  
Socks – all sizes

#### **Babies:**

Anything for babies 6 months to 24 months  
Ages 3 months to 24 months

#### **Toiletries:**

Towels, washcloths, blankets, sheets, pillows, laundry soap, laundry baskets, shampoo, lotion, conditioner, dish soap, bar soap

#### **Kitchen:**

Coffee pots, can openers, stew pots, large soup pots, pots & pans, dishes, silverware, baking pans, mixers, cooking utensils, blenders

**Men:** Screwdriver & socket sets, flashlights, work gloves, black electrical tape, shovels, shaving kits, razors, deodorant

**Teen Girls:** Make-up kit, nail polish & remover, emery boards, perfume, headphones, hair accessories, jewelry kits, MP3 players or iPod, art supplies/drawing kits

**Teen Boys:** Basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, handheld games, skateboards, MP3 players, headphones

**Family Games:** Life, UNO, Sorry, Skipbo, Yahtzee, Monopoly, etc.



**Wrapping paper, scotch tape, shirt boxes, gift bags**

**THE HOLIDAY SEASON** (Edward Hays – *A Pilgrim’s Almanac*)

Soon the holidays will be upon us. The holiday season begins with Thanksgiving and continues until Epiphany. It is a season filled with expectations and the richness of tradition. Our word holiday is but another spelling of “holy day.” The idea of combining religious celebration and relaxation from work goes back to the origin of holy days – days of both attending church and freedom from work – because rest itself was considered holy.

We need more holidays! We need those days when we can pull out of the fast lane and rest a bit on the side of the racetrack of daily life. Long ago, Sundays were such days of rest from the labor of the week. They were observed with the same attitude as was the Jewish Sabbath, when even the beasts of burden were forbidden to labor. Today, such days of complete relaxation and rest are few and far between.

We each need to honor holidays or free days when we exercise the discipline of closing our eyes to the mess in the garage or to the closet that needs to be straightened, and just relax. Such days are holy days even if they fall on a Saturday, or some other day, and even if we are the only ones observing them. We need such days of freedom if we are to be holy and whole.

Part of our religious tradition is the keeping holy of the Sabbath. The requirement of abstaining from work was to be a weekly celebration for the Jews of their liberation from slavery in Egypt. Slaves don’t have days off; so to have one free day out of every seven was a powerful statement about who the Jews were and who they were not. How easily we become enslaved to a host of masters who keep us “on the go” seven days a week. If it isn’t one master who is cracking the whip, then it’s another. They have names like efficiency, tidiness, success, achievement; as well as others we know so well: the boss, the business, the job. In addition, marriage, friendship and health all prosper when they are given holidays and free times. If our commitments are such that we consider an entire day an impossible reality in our week, then at least there is always the holy hour or “holihours” – a certain time each day to be free, to relax, and so become more holy. An entire holiday is better but, as the old saying goes, “A half a loaf is better than no loaf at all.” And loafing is what holidays and Sundays are really about, even if we have misplaced their original purpose.

As we begin to prepare for the coming holiday season, we could apply some discipline to our agendas about what “should” be done. While decorating, purchasing gifts, writing cards, cooking grand feasts and attending parties is indeed part of the tradition of the holidays, so is loafing. Perhaps the best way to begin to prepare for the great holy days of this season is to put on your loafers and have a holiday or holihour today.

***november Birthdays***



**Happy Birthday to you!!!**

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

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 01 David Ianuzi      | 18 Lawrence Hamlin III |
| Lily Veronica Prisco | Meghan Doss            |
| Nicholas McIntyre    | 20 Devon Schmidt       |
| Sarah Dancks         | Morgan Posewitz        |
| 02 John Sleeth       | 22 Andrew Russell      |



## **Bellvue Heights UMC Signal** – Nov 2016

	William Travis		Christopher Lind
03	Gregory Riebel		Gordon Spooner
	Jean Roseamelia	23	Phyllis Sherwood
05	Mary Beth Lewis	24	Danny Cole
06	Elaine Lasda		Jeff Yucha
	Kenneth Parton		John Cherundolo
	Timothy Cowin	26	Margaret Welch
07	Bonnie Parton	27	Linda Randall
	Pamela Hubby		Barbara Keating
08	Eric Behnke	29	Robert Nogash
	Matt Crenshaw		Sara Mathews
10	Eric Anderson		Joshua Mattice
11	Craig Yoder		Alex MacKnight
12	Sam Haines	30	Carol Travis
13	Voigt Archer		Robert Steele
15	Maureen Foran-Mocete		Linda Snow
16	Archie Spencer		
17	Ashley Lorraine Mahoney		
	Jennifer Attfield		

### **City Wide Youth Group 2016**

Save the following dates for some exciting activities for youth in Grades 7-12:

#### **Schedule:**

Nov. 6	Homecoming and Youth Group Bake Sale
Nov. 13	Meeting at church 6-8 pm with Rev. Andy
Nov. 20	Meal and worship at Brown 2-5 pm
Nov. 27	No meeting - Thanksgiving

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

MARY McCLUSKY  
Submitted by Maxine Adams

On October 11<sup>th</sup> I had the privilege of hearing Mary McClusky share her testimony. She walked haltingly into the room and sat in a chair facing the



audience. I noticed her feet which were in shoes that did not match in size. The left shoe was wider than the right and both shoes were so short I wondered how she managed to maintain enough balance to walk.

Mary was born in India and was left on the streets by her birth family to die when she was 3 or 4 years old. She was found by a man whom she thought was trying to protect her but he sexually molested her and threw her back on the street. Mary was wandering the streets, found herself at the train station, and was sucked under a train and her legs were severed.

Mary says, “Death was knocking at my door, but God held me in the palm of His hands.” She was taken to a hospital where her life was saved along with one of her legs. She was sent to an orphanage and subsequently adopted by an American family.

In the words of my friend, Millie, “Mary’s life story and testimony will almost stop you from breathing. Her story will make you ask, what do I have to complain about? You will look at her and wonder, how can she be so cheerful and full of life? Mary’s true story will prove how God can take what was meant for disaster and turn the disaster into something of beauty.”

1 Peter 5:6-7, “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, asting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” What I know for sure is that God cares for us intensely and His love for us is personal, detailed, and in-depth.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER:**

**Nov. 6 – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Green):** Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; 2Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

**Nov. 13 – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Green):** Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12 or Psalm 118; 2 Thess. 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

**Nov. 20 – Last Sunday after Pentecost/Christ the King Sunday (White):** Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

**Nov. 27 – 1st Sunday of Advent (Purple):** Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

**COFFEE HOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

<b>November</b>	<b>Worship</b>
December	United Methodist Women
January	Trustees
February	Staff Parish
March	Christians in Action
April	Friends in Faith and Fellowship
May	Choir
June	Finance



# Bellvue Heights UMC Signal – Nov 2016

July/August	Congregation Signups
September	Church Council
October	Youth Group

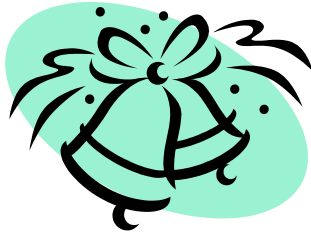
## **USHERS FOR NOVEMBER:**

Ushers – Various

## **GREETER:**

Dawn Daggett

## **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**



### **Congratulations to:**

Patricia and Michael Wojenski	11/09/1979
Madelyn and Dale Hornstein	11/12/1988
Susan and Alfred Nielsen	11/24/1973
Tim and Deb Durham	11/11/2011

Please notify the church office, either by email or phone, of any necessary changes.

.+++++

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, we will gather at 7 AM to hear Rev. Dr. B. J. Norrix tell us about his recent mission trip to Africa. Hope to see you at Fairmount Wegmans.

+++++

## **SPAGHETTI DINNER & AUCTION**

COME ONE, COME ALL:

WHO: Bellevue Heights UMC Circle of Concern  
 WHAT: Spaghetti Dinner and Auction - Silent & Live  
 WHERE: Bellevue Heights' Fellowship Hall  
 WHEN: Saturday, February 25, 2017  
 Dinner at 5:30 PM; Auction Preview at 6:30 PM





## **Bellvue Heights UMC Signal** – Nov 2016

Auction from 7:00-9:00 PM

You will be receiving a call for a donation of a basket, food, craft or a service.