



### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.*

*Then let us, with the spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find. (Brian Wren)*

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I greet you in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the members and friends of Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church for extending a warm welcome to my family and me to the Crossroads District, Syracuse City United Methodist Churches and particularly to BHUMC, one of my primary assignments. It is indeed a joy for me to share this journey with you.

Whenever there is a new appointment to a congregation there is always a measure of trepidation as well as a sense of optimism. My experience is that the congregation always expects the new pastor to do things that will “grow” the church. It is my view that growth is absolutely possible and necessary. However, for this to happen, there must be an atmosphere that is conducive to such. To help cultivate the right atmosphere, there cannot be the business as usual attitude. Instead, the time has come for us to be intentional in what we do as we strive to further the kingdom of God.

As the summer is winding down, we approach the month of September and the start of a new church year (2015/2016). I call upon the community of faith at BHUMC to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. I encourage you to be open-minded to new ways of doing church. As I lift you up in prayer, I also ask that you spend quality time in prayer and listening for God's discernment with respect to the plans God has for BHUMC and the city of Syracuse. It is my hope that, as we go through this period of prayer and discernment, we would reclaim the mission of our church which is to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” May you receive new insights in living out the mission of BHUMC: ***We are called by God to share and extend the love of Christ.*** I look forward to doing ministry with you and you with me.

Yours in ministry



**WIDE CHURCH NEWS** (Information rec'd from Rev. BJ Norrix)

What's happening with the City churches:

- A. We are exploring how to incorporate the Syracuse United Methodist Churches.
- B. We are exploring better ways to do the city-wide youth group.
- C. We are exploring the possibility of a city-wide Confirmation Class.
- D. Jee Hae Song, who will be pastor at Hope Korean and St. Paul's UMCs, has been delayed and is expected to join us around September 1.

Looking Forward:

Watch for information on Hand2Plow training that will be coming to the city of Syracuse in October. Hand2Plow was developed by Dr. Aaron Bouwens, Upper New York Conference's Director of Vital Congregations, as a process to help congregations begin to think, see, pray and move forward in our mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The October training is specifically designed for the congregations of the city of Syracuse and will meet once a month for several months.

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**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S NEWS**

The first UMW meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will have a welcome back covered dish supper at 6:00 pm. Circle of Concern is hostessing. Please bring a friend!

The UMW Fall District Meeting will be held at Marcellus UMC from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be served. The lunch charge will be \$8.00. The program will be from UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). All participants are invited to bring completed school and health kits. Contact your circle president to make reservations. We would love to have another wonderful turnout from Bellevue!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>  
FOR THE "GOOD START BRUNCH" !  
(for the whole church family)

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO.....Join us on September 13<sup>th</sup> when we kickoff the new Sunday school year with a "Good Start Brunch" following worship. The entire church congregational "family" is invited. It will be a time to reconnect with your "church family" and an opportunity to meet Reverend Anderson if you haven't yet. There will be a fun game of trivia with questions for all ages. (\*your free



answer is Lightning McQueen). Weather permitting those interested can help cheer on the Strathmore Park Runners as they race past our church.

Children and youth will hear about the upcoming Sunday school year and "sign-up", for Sunday school which will start the following week September 20<sup>th</sup> after worship. The "All-Together Class" for Pre-K age 4 through Grade 6 will be taught by Gretchen Kinnell, along with other familiar faces as teachers and helpers. Michael Streissguth is continuing as the Youth Class teacher (grades 7 - 12), with discussions and class trips in the plans. At least one adult class will meet in the Christian Service Room, with Linda Bergh coordinating.

For older youth who haven't been confirmed plans are in the works for a confirmation class led by Rev. Anderson. Youth who are interested may talk with Rev. Anderson, Laura Mattice, Gretchen Kinnell, Sue Nielsen or Diane Dermody.

Youth group will be starting at the end of September and youth will be able to hear about upcoming plans and events for the year.

Let's START this Sunday school year with a **GREAT START**, invite a friend or encourage a church member who has been absent to join us.

**NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS**

September brings the start of a new school year complete with a new Program Director! Kathy Tornatore joined our team over the summer, taking the reins from Deb Coman. Kathy is joined by our full teaching staff, returning for another year! It will be wonderful to provide that piece of continuity to our families.

We may still have an opening or two for both our 3 and 4 year old classes at this writing so please send anyone our way for more information if they are interested. They can call Kathy at 475-2344 or visit our website at [www.bellevueheightsnurseryschool.org](http://www.bellevueheightsnurseryschool.org).

We are excited to continue our philosophy of learning through play and incorporating some new ways to do this that prepare children even more fully for future years in elementary school and beyond.

Stay tuned for more information about how you can support the nursery school during our Election Day Bake and Craft Sale. Also, mark your calendars for BHNS' Gannon's Night on Tuesday, September 29, when a portion of all sales between 6 - 8 p.m. at their Valley location will be donated to our school. Last year, we were proud and honored by the many Church members who came out to support us. We hope you will consider doing that again this year.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Chuck Colson writes

"When I was at Buckingham Palace, Prince Philip asked me, "What can we do about crime here in England?"

I replied, "Send more children to Sunday school." He thought I was joking. But I pointed out a study by sociologist Christie Davies which found that in the first half of the 1800s British society was marked by high levels of crime and violence, which dropped dramatically in the late 1800s and early 1900s. What changed an entire nation's national character? Throughout that period, attendance at Sunday schools rose steadily until, by 1888, a full 75% of children in England were enrolled. Since then, attendance has fallen off to one-third its peak level, with a corresponding increase in crime and disorder. If we fill the Sunday schools, we can change hearts and restore society.

*Jubilee (October 1995)*

### **From Josh Mattice:**

Thank you so much for all of the love and support over the years. I hope the Love Gift can help make my time in college a little bit easier. I wanted to let you all know how grateful I am for how this community has shaped my life and guided me. Thank you all.

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### **From UMCOR:**

Thank you for your support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Through your gift, you are helping to provide assistance for survivors of human trafficking, funding for health and development projects that alleviate hunger and poverty, holistic community-based health programs, and access to clean water and sanitation. This is just a sampling of the good works that gifts like yours make possible. Thank you for giving so generously.

Through the Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church, **100 percent** of your contributions will go to Disaster Response, International Advance #982450. Your gift received on 07/15/15 of \$550.00 is responding quickly to meet emergency needs around the world. Giving through The Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world. Thank you for joining with us to "Be Hope" to those who desperately need it.

Please let us know if you have questions and/or concerns, as we welcome the opportunity to speak with you. You can reach the Gift Processing Unit at 212-870-3611. You can find out more about UMCOR's work by visiting our website at [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org). To receive weekly updates about UMCOR's work, sign up on our



website for the UMCOR Hotline, a weekly email about the latest happenings at UMCOR.

### **IMAGINE NO MALARIA; BRING YOUR SHOES TO CHURCH**

There is a “Shoe Collection Box” resting in a coat stall in the hallway across from the restrooms in the upstairs hallway. The shoe collection is for the people in Africa who are suffering from malaria and need netting to protect them against mosquitos.

Our collection of shoes will be taken to Andrews Memorial UMC in North Syracuse to be shipped to African markets in Mali, Guinea, Morocco & Liberia where they will be bought by the citizens who need them in order to find jobs. The children will wear them to play games and to walk the streets of the cities.

The funds raised by selling the shoes will be used to purchase netting which is used by Africans to cover their bodies as they sleep. Malaria, spread by the bite of mosquitos, can be and often is deadly.

The shoes could be given out to everyone but, by the people purchasing them at a very nominal cost, it helps them to not always be the receivers of free items and makes them feel less dependent on hand-outs. The shoes are given to those with disabilities or who do not have the financial ability to pay for them.

Men’s, women’s, kids’ shoes, athletic shoes, cleats and sandals will be accepted. NO winter boots will be accepted.

Once 300 pairs of shoes have been received at Andrews Memorial, the first shipment will be prepared and sent to the “rerun” organization. There is no cost to us to mail the shoes. The only cost is the purchase of special cardboard boxes at approximately \$2.00 each.

Questions? Please call Linda Parton at 469-3460.



### September Birthdays



**Happy Birthday to you!!!**

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

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|----|-----------------------|----|---------------------|
| 01 | Janet Hillery         | 14 | Brian Shenfeld      |
|    | Peter Morgan          |    | Christopher Streich |
|    | Scott Castle          |    | Craig Martin        |
|    | Susan Lind            |    | Emily Robison       |
|    | Jennifer Mitton       | 15 | Elizabeth Seagers   |
| 02 | Jennifer Graham-White | 16 | David Vosbury       |
|    | Jean Whitmore         |    | Karen Poulos        |
|    | William Lombard, Jr.  | 17 | Meghan O'Connor     |
| 03 | Gordon Hershberger    | 18 | Megan Dermody       |
| 04 | Jenna Hunsberger      | 20 | Ann Toscano         |
|    | William Swift         | 22 | Franklin Waelde     |
| 05 | Michael Streissguth   |    | Nancy Gongloff      |
|    | Katie Marie Anderson  | 23 | Elizabeth Garman    |
| 06 | Sophia Wojcik         |    | Laura Mattice       |
|    | Wilma Mancuso         | 25 | Robert Sleeth       |
| 07 | James Woolner         |    | Stephanie Ladd      |
|    | Ashley Yoder          | 26 | Melanie Flaherty    |
| 08 | Seamus Kirst          |    | Robert Withers      |
| 09 | Karen Hubby           |    | Sharon Sauter       |
| 11 | Paul Monsour          | 27 | Roseanne Nogash     |
|    | Elizabeth Corcoran    |    | Susan Evans         |
| 12 | Sandra Schmidt        |    | William Lewis       |
|    | Joel Townley          | 28 | Margaret Kanasola   |
| 13 | Michele Iannello      | 29 | Barbara Spencer     |
|    |                       |    | James Shope III     |
|    |                       |    | Patrick Kelly       |



## **City Youth Group 2015**

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

### **Schedule:**

***Youth Group will be starting the end of September. Be watching this page for upcoming plans and events for the year.***

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



**WALKING LESSONS: SACRED PLACES** by Maxine Adams

1 Corinthians 3:16 (KJV)

*“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”*

Sid Hill, Tadodaho of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, led a thanksgiving address for Onondaga Lake on June 19, 2015. This event was in coordination with the “National Sacred Places Prayer Day” held in Washington D.C. Since the event took place on the shores of Onondaga Lake, I arrived early to get my daily walk in before-hand. As I walked I watched people gather for the prayer and form themselves naturally into a circle. So the circle would be unbroken, I joined it at the appropriate time.

Tadodaho Hill offered a traditional prayer spoken in the Onondaga language. Although I couldn’t understand the words, I could feel the presence of God with us in the circle. After the prayer, Tadodaho Hill explained the content of the prayer and the nature of sacred places. A place becomes sacred because a manifestation of the sacred happened there.

A sacred thing happened in my heart after I received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. This sacred happening started a continuous work of the Holy Spirit within me. I must cooperate with him, “being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in me will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6)

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**Art Snow:** We have had a change in room number for Art, who has been living at Keepsake Village, a part of Hearth at Greenpoint in Liverpool, since July. He is now in Rm. #719. He has no phone but, if you want to check on him or find out a good time to visit, you may call 314-4239. He would love visitors and cards. Art’s address is: Mr. Arthur Snow, Keepsake Village, 138 Old Liverpool Road, Room 719, Liverpool, NY 13088.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER:**

**Sept. 6 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost:** Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125 or Psalm 124; James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

**Sept. 13 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost:** Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

**Sept. 20 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost:** Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37





**Sept. 27 – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost:** Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

**COFFEE HOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

<b>September</b>	<b>Church Council</b>
October	Youth Group
November	Worship
December	United Methodist Women
January	Trustees
February	Staff Parish
March	Christians in Action
April	Friends in Faith and Fellowship
May	Choir
June	Finance
July/August	Congregation Signups

**USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER**

Head Usher – Jeff Morey  
Regular Ushers: Val or Laura Mattice, Jasheim Newman,  
Leslie/Mike Streissguth

**MUSICAL NOTES** (from Sandy Murphy)

Choir rehearsals resume on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:15 pm in the Choir Room. Choir will sing on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Welcome back!

Sandy and Ann Barnes will perform on the Civic Morning Musicals Wednesday Recital series at the Everson Museum on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The program will feature Songs of Love and Longing from the Broadway, operatic, art song and jazz traditions. Performance is free and open to the public. It begins at 12:30 pm and will last about an hour. Discounted parking in the Oncenter Garage (bring your ticket stub to the concert for validation.) For more information, visit the CMM website:  
<http://www.civictimorningmusicals.org/index.php/concerts/2012-09-16-06-17-28>.

The vocal group Quintessential is planning a concert for late September. Watch the church bulletin and your email for additional details.



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**SAVE THE DATE:**

On Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm Dr. Emmanuel Mefor and his wife, Florence, will be visiting Erwin First UMC. Dr. Mefor is the Station Chief at the United Methodist Hospital in Mutumbara, Zimbabwe. Dr. Mefor will be speaking about his work at Mutumbara and about our United Methodist presence there. Rev. Dr. BJ Norris met the Mefors in 2006 when he visited Zimbabwe with Dr. Marvin and Dr. Sylvia Reimer, United Methodist missionaries from Watertown, NY. The Mefors first visited New York State about 7 years ago. This will be an open event for the whole city (and any and all who would like to come hear them!) An offering will be received to support their work.

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES Congratulations to:**



- Lisa & Marlon Woolner 9/06/?
- Lisa & Ian Brown 9/06/97
- Elizabeth & Stephen Newman 9/06/97
- Sue Ann & Tim Cowin 9/14/68
- Marilyn & Timothy McDermott 9/14/85
- Linda & Jim Parton 9/17/66
- Mary & Martin Graham 9/25/93

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

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**Men's Fellowship Breakfast**

On Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, we will kick off our 5<sup>th</sup> year and 41<sup>st</sup> breakfast, with a "field trip" to the Northwest Area YMCA in Baldwinsville. We will have a continental breakfast at the YMCA and tour the facility. We will meet at the church at 7 AM and car pool out to the YMCA for breakfast at 7:30 AM.

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**SAVE THE DATE:**

Our annual fall **Roast Beef Dinner** will be held on **Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please let Jim Morgan know that you are willing to help in some capacity – setting up, cooking, serving, cleaning up, etc. Also, be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to dinner!