***NEWS FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK…***

A WORD FROM THE NEW YORK COUNCIL OF CHURCHES!

Your vote is your voice – don’t give it up!

These are difficult and challenging times for our local communities, our country, and the world. Divisive and heated rhetoric dominate the public dialogue, and the power of money is shutting out the voice of the average voter. More and more people are withdrawing from engagement in the political process out of a growing sense of cynicism and mistrust.

Now, more than ever, your voice and your efforts are needed.

As people of faith, we can play a unique role in this election cycle by encouraging civil, respectful dialogue that builds community and offers a hope-filled vision of the future for all people.

Join the Our Faith, Our Vote campaign and find out how you can participate in the 2012 electoral process through faithful, nonpartisan engagement. Check out the New York Council of Churches’ resources and sign up for helpful webinars and opportunities to make a difference in this election season

Visit their website at https://sites.google.com/

site/nyscouncilofchurches. Or connect with their usual web address – www.nyscoc.org
Blessings!

Rev. Patience Kisakye, Pastor

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**MEET BISHOP WEBB**

 Crossroads District Laity and Clergy are invited to meet Bishop Mark Webb at Liverpool First UMC on Monday, October 15th, at 6:00 PM. This is your opportunity to say hello and welcome Bishop Webb to our District.

**“FIRE OF FAITH”**

The Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) is holding a Public Action meeting on Sunday, October 21st from 3:30-5:00 PM at Henninger High School, 600 Robinson Street, Syracuse. The agenda items are: 1) Public Education (Pre-K), 2) Food Access, 3) Criminal Justice, and 4) Raising the State Minimum Wage. It is through coming together as a community that we are most powerful. ALL ARE WELCOME. For more information, please contact Megan Godfrey at 315-708-2482.

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**CROP WALK SUNDAY**

 Attention walkers and sponsors! The 2012 CROPWalk will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, October 14th, at Columbus Circle. We have always had great response to this opportunity to raise money to eradicate hunger worldwide and in Syracuse. All our local food banks benefit from CROPWalk. Please sign up to walk. Jeanie Brown will provide you with donor envelopes. For information, call 478-6188. Thank you!

 Prior to the CROPWalk and following the morning worship, there will be a dish-to-pass luncheon. Everyone will bring a dish typical of their heritage, generation, family or country. Feel free to bring snacks, appetizers, hors d’oeuvres, main dishes and/or desserts. Those from the same family, country, generation or heritage may join forces to create an epic masterpiece to blow the other generations, nations or heritages away! Bring your dishes to Fellowship Hall and we will have a place to display them, along with a sign indicating which family, generation, country or heritage they represent.

 The Africa Music, Drumming and Dance group will entertain us as we prepare to participate in the 2012 CROPWalk.

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Nursery School

We were awarded a $9,000 Imagination Playground in a Cart (IPC) Grant by Dr. Pepper Snapple KaBOOM! This innovative, moveable system of lightweight, large building blocks, ramps and balls will provide hours of fun, learning and physical activity to our preschoolers. We are joining only 5 other recipients of the IPC in New York State and are grateful for this distinction and recognition. Thank you to all the church families who helped carry out and support our fundraising efforts over last year as we needed to raise supplemental funds and shipping costs for the IPC. We exceeded our goal with your help and are able to place our IPC order while other recipients begin their fundraising tasks. Thank you, thank you! This is the second grant we were awarded in 2011-2012 and we are now setting our sights on other program enhancements and developments.

Our preschool enrollment is full! We are already getting used to the routines that the new school year brings and thanks to continuing good weather, we are spending a lot of time outside with the children. As we turn to October already, we look forward to field trips to Tim’s Pumpkin Patch, School Picture Days, and Halloween Parades!

Please mark your calendars to help support our preschool: On Tuesday October 2 from 6 - 8 p.m. Gannon’s Isle Ice Cream in the Valley will host BHNS Night where a portion of all sales during this time will be donated to our program. Please plan to go and to tell your friends! Also, our Annual Election Day Bake and Craft Sale is Tuesday November 6. It’s not too early to start thinking about what you might bake or craft if you would like to help. We also need people to work 2 hour shifts on Election Day while the polls are open. Please consider these and any other ways you would like to get involved with the preschool and call Co-Directors, Chris or Deb, at 475-2344 to get more information.

***THANK YOU’S***

 Thank you for the many cards and kind words of sympathy. It shows us how many lives Angus touched.

Jeanie and Charlie Brown

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Thanks so much for everything everyone has done for me. The money was a great help. Can’t believe I’m going to Cortland!

 Megan Dermody

(For those wishing to see it, Megan’s card is taped to the office door.)

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**NEWS FROM RED BIRD**

Red Bird Misson’s Women and Children Ministries has provided after school programming at Red Bird School for the past few years, but funding from the Promise Neighborhood Initiative of Berea College is taking After School to a new level. Twenty-five students attended the kickoff “bash” on August 21st to meet the artists. Beginning September 11th, professional artists are providing opportunities for youth to learn specific arts skills and explore creative expression.

Four different artists will come every other week to work with elementary and teen students in separate groups. The elementary team will focus on pottery projects. The middle and high school artist team will assist students in selecting a theme (or themes) that they can explore and express through song writing and abstract art. In the final two sessions, students will either create a “puzzle mural” consisting of individual paintings, or write poetry, personal narratives or journal entries reflecting the same themes that emerge in their mural pieces.

At the conclusion of the project, parents and community members will see the unveiling of the mural, an exhibit of student art, a reading of student writings and, possibly, a performance of the student-created musical CD.

**Consecration Sunday Is Coming**

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church’s mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation’s finance committee has selected the

*New* *Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to each the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year. *New Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New* *Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, “What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?”

 During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church’s missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

 Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card. We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship. We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship. Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Church Council Chairperson**,**

**Ted Jewett**

***CHRISTIANS IN ACTION***

The clothes closet at Brown Memorial UMC is already gearing up for the cold weather, as are all of us. They are looking for all sizes of outerwear; i.e., coats/jackets, hats, gloves/mittens, snowpants, boots in addition to sweaters, sweatshirts/sweatpants. Families on a limited income are very appreciative of the opportunity to purchase clothes from the Clothes Closet at a very nominal cost. This small mission at Brown Memorial has been around since at least 1988 and, over the years, has seen changes in location and presentation, but has always remained a staple fixture in the neighborhood.

The pantry items for October will be peanut butter, jelly and soup (canned or dry mix). Pantry bags will be handed out the 1st Sunday in October and we would like them returned on the 3rd Sunday. The returned bags will be collected during the service as a part of the children’s time.

Olga Gonzalez, the Church and Community Worker at Brown Memorial has already prepared a wish list for the annual SWUM/Life Skills Christmas Store. Please, please put the list which follows on your refrigerator and refer to it as you go about your holiday shopping. Although not noted on the list, gift cards to Dollar Tree, Family Dollar and the like are always welcome as well as a cash donation for the purchase of additional items as needed.

This is a year in which we are working and having new positive expectations for all our programs. One of our activities is the Christmas Store. The purpose is to give Christmas presents to our community people especially those who are participating in the Life Skills Programs. So, we invite all of you to participate in this big activity if you have gifts that you wish to donate to us for this purpose. We appreciate your prayers for this mission. On page 7 is a list of different things we can use for the gifts.

**SWUM CHRISTMAS STORE**

**2012**

**Men:**

Small to 3XL T-shirts, sweatshirts

Small to 3XL pajamas

Men’s cologne, Old Spice kits, etc., tools, booster cables, wrenches, socket sets, screwdriver sets, wallets, razors, thermal underwear

**Women:**

Small to 4XL shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, pajamas, jeans, sweats, nightgowns, jewelry, bath kits, perfume, knickknacks, purses, make-up kits, nail polish, brush/comb sets

**Girls:**

12-18 teenage girls – shirts, pants, sweatshirts, hoodies, nail polish, make-up kits, small radios, headphones, jewelry, pajamas

2T-11 little girls – shirts, clothes, pants, jackets, brush sets, dolls, craft kits, drawing supplies/kits, games, jewelry

**Boys:**

12-18 teenage boys – shirts, hoodies, jeans, kits, sweatshirts, basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, baseballs, skateboards, radios, headphones, handheld games

2T-11 small boys – shirts, pants, hoodies, jackets, spacemen, tool kits, pajamas, cars, trucks, Lego game, balls, action figures, games.

For additional information, you can send your e-mail to:

swumccw@gmail.com, call Olga E. Gonzalez at 315-475-8996 or Esther Crossman at 315-849-6737.

**Another Blue Ribbon**

It’s beginning to be old hat. Our own Pauline Filsinger has won another Blue Ribbon at the New York State Fair. This year Pauline won a Blue Ribbon for her flower design in the class titled “Steamboats-Mississippi Queen”. The judges comment was “Subtle interpretation, Color Harmony and use of textures enhance design”. Congratulations Pauline!

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**Parking Lot Update**

As many have seen, over the summer the Parking Lot “holy ground” has been repaired and the entire area has been sealed and striped. The parsonage driveway also was paved. The total bill was over $18,000.

In June all members and friends of BHUMC received a letter with a special appeal to fund the paving project. To date we have received $1,300 to offset the expenditure and the Finance committee would like to thank those who have already donated. Currently money has been taken from our Bellevue Heights Fund to make this payment. If we don’t raise enough money to cover the expenditure, the BH fund will continue to shrink and will not allow us to fund important ongoing programs at BHUMC.

If you are able, please consider making a donation by simply marking it as “Parking Lot” and placing it in the offering plate, or by mailing it to the church office.

**Calling All Women!**

The Circle of Concern at Bellevue Heights meets the 1st Tuesday of the month and welcomes women of any age to join us in fellowship. Circle members develop close relationships with each other, praying for and nurturing each other. If you would like more information or need a ride to a meeting, please contact Gloria Brunner at 492-3393.

***SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY***

Please think about volunteering 2-4 hours a month for this ministry. The Native American Outreach/Transportation Program has existed for over 25 years and operates as a subcommittee of the Committee on Native American Ministries (CoNAM). The program provides rides to Native Americans sixty years and older and individuals with disabilities who live on the Onondaga Nation and in the surrounding Syracuse area. The program operates on a “will call” basis with a driver providing services 25 hours per week. While the majority of services are medical appointments and treatments, services also include transportation to pharmacies, nutrition sites, food pantries, the post office, banks, shopping, and other necessary places. **The Native American Outreach/Trans-portation Program is seeking a few volunteers to join a committee to oversee and assist with program operations and will only take a few hours a month.** Volunteers would meet with the driver to review hours and operations, submit paperwork to supporting agencies, and monitor the maintenance schedule of the wheel chair bus. Meetings are held bi-monthly in the Nedrow area.

 If you are interested in helping with this vital ministry or would like further information, please call Sharon Schmit at 315-655-2500.

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Excerpt from “The Onondaga Nation’s Vision For A Clean Onondaga Lake”:

The Thunderers

 The Thunderers are the voices of the grandfathers. The Thunderers bring the first rains of spring to wake up the world. The rains replenish the water of Onondaga Lake and purify the air around us. The Thunderers also stab the earth with their lightning bolts to keep under the ground those things that should remain there. The grandfathers have not been consulted about the mining of salt from the Tully Valley or the limestone from the Jamesville Quarries, and they have warned us to be vigilant around these activities.

 We acknowledge that we have not heeded the grandfathers’ warnings. We will clean up the land around the Lake that has been harmed by the waste from the salt and the limestone. We will work to correct the subsidence, the mudboils, and the fissures in the Tully Valley. We will remove the waste material that was deposited in and around the Lake. We will restore the balance that the grandfathers warned us against disturbing. On this we agree.

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR OCTOBER:**

**Oct. 7** – **World Communion** **Sunday –** Job 1:1,2:1-10; Psalm 26 or Psalm 25; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 and Mark 10:2-16

**Oct. 14** **–CROPWalk Sunday –** Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16 and Mark 10:17-31

**Oct. 21 –Laity Sunday –** Job 38:1-7 (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 24, *35c;* Hebrews 5:1-10 and Mark 10:35-45

**Oct. 28– All Saints Sunday –** Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22); Hebrews 5:1-10 and Mark 10:35-45

**COFFEE HOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**October Youth Group**

November Education Team

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 Sign Ups

September Evangelism

**USHERS FOR OCTOBER:**

Head Usher – Ray Brunner

And Carol Karins, Ted Jewett and Linda Parton

**GREETERS FOR OCTOBER:**

Dawn Daggett

Al Nielsen

Happy Birthday to you!!!

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

01 Ryan Robison 15 Tarry Kroft

02 Erica Ladd 17 Matthew Vaughn

 Max Strohecker 19 Alice Longley

 Sarah Wilson Marcia Gessler

03 Charlotte Forties Ronan Fortin

 James Shope 20 Alison MacTavish

 Terry Shenfeld Nancy Nogash

 Tyler Hanes Thomas Callaghan

04 Jane Nogash Paul Niemiec

05 Catherine Streisssguth 21 Albert Wavle

06 Caroline Corcoran 22 Jonathan Hershberger

 Courtney Nogash Jocelyn Ladd

 Haden Patten 24 Jeremy Haines

07 Alice Hale Jeremy Hernandez

 Leanne Cherundolo 25 Souphinthong

08 Erin Spier Phommaniraj

 Leah Shenfeld Matthew Fox

 Tim Morgan 26 Ashley Heilmann

10 Megan Kelly Eleanor Murphy

 Sarah Castle Greg Yucha

11 Janet Hamly Ott 27 Carol Wilcox

 Paul Gongloff 28 Daniel Hatt

12 Nicole D’Alterio 29 Steve Mattice

 Sally Gonyeau 30 Alice Hatt

14 Merritt McGuire Christopher Beach

 Richard Schmidt 31 Amy Caccia

15 Tarry Kroft