

# The Network February 2015

University Presbyterian Church

## Pastor's Column

God wants to be known. It can be said that God came to us as Jesus so that we might better know and understand God.

But what is God like? The best way we Christians can answer that is by looking to Jesus. In him we see what God is like.

For the season of Lent (beginning Feb. 15-March 29) I will offer a 7 week series in the adult class entitled, "The God We Can Know: Exploring the 'I Am' Sayings of Jesus." These short sayings by Jesus in the Gospel of John ("I am the bread of life, I am the true vine, I am the good shepherd, etc.) reveal something to us about Jesus, and thus, about God.

The author of the series says this: "The more we know the great I AM, the better we can finish our own I ams. We are not just made by God but made out of God."

Knowing God means, therefore, knowing ourselves. I invite you to join, as you are able, for all or part of this 7 week series as we journey to discover the one who not only made us but out of whom we are made.

Shalom!

Tracy

**WORSHIP COLUMN ~ February 2015**

**February 1st      4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9:00 am          Worship Service with Communion**

**10:00 am        Education Hour**

**11:00 am        Worship Service with Communion**

**Lectionary: Deut. 18:15-20; Ps. 111; 1 Cor. 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>      5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9:00 am          Worship Service**

**9:30 am          Deacons Meeting**

**10:00 am        Education Hour**

**11:00 am        Worship Service**

**Following Service - Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Corporation of UPC  
Light Lunch to follow in the Holzwarth Room**

**Lectionary: Isa. 40:21-31; Ps. 147:1-11, 20c  
1 Cor. 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39**

**February 15<sup>th</sup>      Transfiguration of the Lord**

**9:00 am          Worship Service**

**10:00 am        Education Hour**

**11:00 am        Worship Service**

**Lectionary: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Ps. 50:1-6; Cor. 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9**

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>      1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**9:00 am          Worship Service**

**10:00 am        Education Hour**

**11:00 am        Worship Service**

**Lectionary: Gen. 9:8-17; Ps. 25:1-10;  
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15**

## Our Member's February Birthdays

- 1 Gerry Ann Appleton
- 1 Connie Michael
- 2 Andrew Safulko
- 3 Kamil Patel
- 8 Jim Smyton
- 9 Sue Castle
- 11 Tim Ecklund
- 12 Grace Agbemenu
- 12 Lidia Vieira
- 17 Barbara Lyons

## Our Youth's February Birthdays

- 6 Linda Moorhouse



## Lenten Adult Education Series

**"The God We Can Know: Exploring the 'I Am' Sayings of Jesus"**

**February 15 - March 29**

**Beginning on Sunday, February 15, Tracy will lead a 7 week series looking at the "I Am" sayings of Jesus (I am the bread of life, I am the light of the world, I am the good shepherd, etc.). This special curricula also includes short video clips of the author in the Holy Land as he explores the places where Jesus stood when he disclosed these special identities.**

**Why not deepen your Lenten journey by joining our discussions for all or part of these 7 weeks!**

## FOOD PANTRY BY THE NUMBERS

These numbers only tell part of the story of this important and meaningful ministry. It is the people behind the numbers, those who receive this food and offer us their thanks and their blessings, and this congregation who provide such generous support, both in time and in donations, that are the essence and the real story that these numbers represent. Our thanks to all of you.

**December 2014**

<b>Infants</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Children</b>	<b>64</b>	
<b>Adults</b>	<b>152</b>	
<b>Seniors</b>	<b>46</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>262</b>	
<b>Households</b>	<b>148</b>	
<b>Equivalent Meals</b>	<b>2358</b>	

***Letting everyone know that we recently had several  
new people join our roster of volunteers.***

***They are doing great and enjoy the time helping others.***

***How about YOU! –***

***It's fun, easy and you will meet the  
greatest people as a helper.***

**Pease Help Us Recruit New Volunteers – New Pantry Volunteers are always welcome! But right now we are in great need of more folks.**

Can you give us an afternoon a month?  
Do you know someone who might like to join us?  
Come and bring a friend along.  
Ask a neighbor.  
Post a flyer at work or at your library.

### **When would I work?**

On a Tuesday or Thursday from 11:30am to 4:00pm.  
One afternoon a month (or as many as you wish).

### **What would I do?**

You would work with 3 or 4 other volunteers.  
You might guide a client through our "store" to help them choose their groceries.  
You might greet and "check in" our clients.  
You might help to stock shelves.  
If you and a friend would like to work together, we can schedule that for you.  
You will feel good about the time you spend with us, helping our neighbors.

## Adult education sessions at University Presbyterian Church

2 more discussions – February 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. (Psalm 34:14)

How might we hear God's call to seek peace?

Is the Spirit of God calling us to take action in pursuit of peace?

Come to UPC's adult ed sessions, and hear how five people have responded to God's call to pursue peace. They represent a wide variety of styles and organizations, and all are committed to following the Spirit of God along whatever paths of peace are open to them.

### Here are the dates and leaders and topics:

Feb. 1, Howard Henry, participant in Women in Black and WNY Peace Center; Linnea Ecklund, set up campaign for human rights in her high school: "How to find the calling and the courage to take action"

Feb. 8, Vicki Ross, Peaceful Conflict Resolution Consultant; WNY Peace Center, Inter-faith Peace Network; Buffalo Public Schools; "Teaching and learning the many ways of peace in metro Buffalo"

The sessions are 10:00-10:50 am, in Room 101. All are welcome!

Let's Go Climbing!



The youth of UPC are planning an outing to Niagara Rock Climbing on 1333 Strad Ave. North Tonawanda on March 1 immediately after 11 am service. After a pizza lunch we will have 3 hours to climb and have fun! Invite your friends. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway to the narthex. Price of the outing will be determined by the amount of people signed up. For more information call Amy Erickson at 876-6874.

## Duffield in Need



A 'wish list' has been developed by members of the Summer staff, only a part of which, follows: Work Gloves, Golf Cart, Hand-held tools, Dryer, Washing Machine, Microwave, Dorm size refrigerator, Room fans, Microphone, Speakers, Plastic tablecloths (or rolls), First aid supplies, Flashlights, Batteries of various sizes, Bed linens, Sleeping Bags, Towels, Blankets, Toiletries. If you have any of the above to give to Duffield, please let me know. Many thanks for your consideration of the above. (716-652-6548 or [jwsings@roadrunner.com](mailto:jwsings@roadrunner.com))



### Hearts for the Homeless “DONATE YOUR SOLE” program

Valentine’s Day is this month. Why not check out a new pair of warm slippers (in red, pink, or designed) as a nice donation to our Donate your Sole program. Hearts for the Homeless welcomes gently used and new footwear of all kinds and sizes.

Please take a moment to warm the heart of someone who has little and would appreciate the kindness during the month of February.

As always, your donations are very much appreciated.



## **Member Interview ~ Gladys Gifford**

**Gladys was born in Lockport, NY and grew up on a dairy farm near Canandaigua, NY. She came to UPC as the organist/choir director in 1985 and stayed on as a member (1987), "because God called me to participate fully in the life of the church."**

**Her first career was in music education: she taught in Buffalo public schools for 16 years, taught piano at Community Music School, and served several churches as organist/choir director (to 1999). She was commissioned as an Authorized Lay Preacher in the Presbytery of WNY, and has served as pulpit supply since 2000.**

**Since retiring from her music career, Gladys has become a community activist. She completed a theological degree in 2006 with a focus on how the Christian church relates to environmental concerns. Through husband, Alvin, she joined the League of Women Voters Buffalo-Niagara, and thereby became active in advocating for equitable and effective public transportation. Her focus on the church and creation led her to become the Restoring Creation Educator for the Presbytery of WNY, 1996-2010. Currently she serves the presbytery as alternate delegate to the Network of Religious Communities and as a member of the Outreach Ministry Team.**

**Gladys says that her faith in Christ grounds every part of her life. "I accepted Christ as a child, and have relied on Christ's faithfulness all my life." Gladys's teen years were grounded through attending Christian camp. As a young adult she wandered but then the Spirit pulled her back in the Christian community and here she stays!**

**Gladys has been a very active member of UPC, serving as an elder on the session since the 1990's. She has also served on the Ministry to Community committee, UPC college students committee and can be seen in the choir weekly. In the church's heyday of the Scottish Festivals she co-chaired twice.**

**During her free time she has rediscovered photography and posts samples often on Facebook. She also enjoys creative writing, with several columns published in the News. Soon she hopes to finish a quilt, and on occasion plays piano for relaxation. Most years her husband Alvin takes her on extended trips to far-away places to learn and explore and collect memories. Gladys's enthusiasm and gifts are an inspiration to all of us in UPC, and we appreciate all she has done for the church through the years.**

# HE NETWORK CALENDAR

## February 2015

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
	9:00 am	Worship Service with Communion
	10:00 am	Education Class - Adult & Youth
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Communion
	Following 11 am Service	Annual Congregation & Corporation Meeting
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	12 – 4 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Choir Practice
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	5:30 pm	Taizé Service
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Grief Support Meeting @ Family Tree
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
	9:00 am	Worship Service
	10:00 am	Education Class - Adult & Youth
	10:00 am	Worship Service
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	12:00 pm	Presbyterian Women Meeting in the Holzwarth Rm.
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	5:00 pm	Bible Study w/Rev. Stuart Buisch – Holzwarth Room. Everyone is Welcome
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	12 – 4 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Choir Practice
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b>	
	9:00 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Deacon's Meeting
	10:00 am	Education Class - Adult & Youth
	11:00 am	Worship Service
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry



**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Ash Wednesday**

**6:00 pm  
7:00 pm**

**Soup Supper  
Ash Wednesday Worship Service**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>**

**12 – 4 pm  
7:30 pm**

**Food Pantry  
Choir Practice**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**9:00 am  
10:00 am  
11:00 am**

**Worship Service  
Education Class - Adult & Youth  
Worship Service**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>**

**12 – 4 pm**

**Food Pantry**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00 pm**

**Bible Study w/Rev. Stuart Buisch –  
Holzwarth Room. Everyone is Welcome.**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>**

**12 – 4 pm**

**Food Pantry  
Choir Practice**

**MARCH - 1<sup>st</sup> week preview**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**9:00 am  
10:00 am  
11:00 am**

**Worship Service with Communion  
Education Class - Adult & Youth  
Worship Service with Communion**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**12 – 4 pm**

**Food Pantry**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>**

**12 – 4 pm  
7:30 pm**

**Food Pantry  
Choir Practice**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>**

**5:30 pm**

**Taizé Service**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 am**

**Grief Support Meeting @ Family Tree**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**9:00 am  
10:00 am  
11:00 am**

**Worship Service  
Adult & Youth Sunday Education  
Worship Service**