

Office Number 716-836-7660

FAX Number 716-836-7662

e-mail address -

universitypresbyterian@verizon.net

UPC Website-<http://www.upcbuffalo.org>

A monthly newsletter for members and friends of University Presbyterian Church December 2010

Congratulations, UPC!!

University Presbyterian Church learned that we have received one of the Lilly Endowment's Clergy Renewal grants. These are very competitive grants, which enable congregations to offer their pastors a sabbatical time for renewal and restoration. Let me share with you some of what the Endowment writes about this special grant:

"University Presbyterian Church has received a grant of \$49,990 to enable its minister, Tracy Daub, to participate in the 2010 National Clergy Renewal Program funded by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. It is one of 150 congregations across the country that will support their ministers in the program, which allows pastors to step back from their busy lives and renew their spirits for the benefit of their ongoing ministries.

"Now in its 11th year, the program invites Christian congregations and ministers to consider and plan a period of intentional reflection and renewal. It provides a time for ministers to take a break from their daily obligations and gain the fresh perspective and renewed energy that a carefully considered 'sabbath time' of travel, study, rest and prayer can provide.

"Each congregation is eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$50,000. Up to \$15,000 of that amount can be used to fulfill pastoral duties during the minister's absence and for expenses related to the congregation's own renewal. The 150 grants this year total \$6.4 million."

Craig Dykstra, senior vice president for religion at the Endowment states, "We ask these congregations and ministers to consider the question, 'What will make your heart sing?', as they devise their plans. They never fail to come up with wonderful and imaginative yet doable ways to fulfill their dreams. Their time away has freed them up to pursue personal interests and needs in ways that have given them new energy for ministry—and congregations have discovered that they too experience a refreshment of their own and a newfound sense of their own strengths."

The Endowment's larger goal is "to bolster the good work that America's pastors and congregations accomplish day in and day out and to reinforce and build upon important work being done on both sides of the pulpit." Dykstra adds, "we hope to strengthen the efforts of today's excellent pastors because it is no secret that pastors who have reconnected themselves to the passions that led them to the ministry in the first place are more likely to lead healthy and vibrant congregations."

The journey toward this grant took form about two years ago when I began to consider the idea and to deliberate upon the Endowment's question: "What will make your heart sing?" A year ago, the Session voted for our congregation to apply for one of these grants and it formed a "Sabbatical Planning Team" consisting of 6 Session members with the mission of writing the grant to offer renewal opportunities for both the clergy and the congregation. A copy of the completed grant is available in the Holzwarth Room for UPC members to read but let me highlight some of its components.

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The theme of UPC's Renewal Program centers on the scriptural phrase "Treasures in Earthen Vessels." Protestants are people whose faith is rooted primarily in ideas and words and we are often unsettled by the idea that God dwells in the material world of our bodies and nature. Our worship services are typically passive experiences with an emphasis on hearing the Word as it is contained in the pages of the Bible. Yet, this is a very narrow and incomplete perspective on God's presence. After 17 years of ordained ministry where I have Sunday after Sunday endeavored to probe the pages of the Bible in search of God's word for us, I am eager to spend some concentrated time "reading" other texts in which the treasure of God's presence can also be found. There are three areas in which my Renewal Program will focus on discovering this presence of God in the material world around and within us.

First, I am drawn to God's presence in nature, specifically in the life and behavior of wild animals. Occasions when I have been able to observe or learn about wildlife have always "made my heart sing" and have convinced me that this beautiful and complex created order is also God's word made flesh. For one month of the Renewal Program, my family and I will travel to Australia where we will assist in monitoring threatened species in the South Australian outback at a wildlife re-introduction program, visit other locations around Australia which offer astounding varieties of wildlife and ecosystems, and visit Aboriginal cultural and spiritual sites in order to learn more about the Aboriginal understanding of the Creator's presence in the material world.

Second, the Renewal Program will enable me to develop my emerging skills as a potter. I will spend more time at the local pottery studio where I am currently a member and will also travel to Ghost Ranch, the Presbyterian conference center in New Mexico, where I will take a pottery course. As I participate in the creative process of shaping the cold, wet clay into a vessel, I cannot help but think that my efforts, however imperfect, emulate God's own creative energies.

Finally, the Renewal Program offers an occasion to take better care of my own "vessel"—my body. Both family and congregational responsibilities have adversely affected my discipline of regular exercise. By hiking trails here in Western New York as well as hiking opportunities during my travels, and by creating an exercise program at a gym, I hope to take care of the earthen vessel of my body where God resides.

UPC's grant also includes renewal opportunities for the congregation, which correspond to the themes I will be exploring. During my absence, UPC will offer four monthly events which will include guided hikes along the Niagara River, an artist-in-residence program with hands-on opportunities for creating a variety of art, and an evening of fun and fitness with line-dancing and Wii-Fit activities. Three neighboring Presbyterian congregations will be invited to join in these activities with us. After my return from the sabbatical, the congregation and I will have an opportunity to join in a weekend retreat where we will share some of our insights during this period. Details about all these events will follow in the months to come.

The Renewal Program will take place from June through September of 2011. The Session is in the process of seeking a highly qualified ordained pastor to offer pastoral coverage and worship leadership during my absence. While we are working out the details of this sabbatical time, we encourage you to please share any questions or concerns you may have about the Renewal Program with me or any member of the Session.

A prayer I recently read invited us to remember that the good things of our lives are gifts from God rather than rewards we have earned. This grant is a tremendous gift for all of us at UPC. May our hearts be filled to overflowing with gratitude for this blessing.

Shalom, Tracy

Worship Column

DECEMBER 5th - 2ND Sunday in ADVENT

9:00 AM Worship - Communion
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship - Communion
Lectionary: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

DECEMBER 12th - 3RD Sunday in ADVENT

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

DECEMBER 19th - 4TH Sunday in ADVENT

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

DECEMBER 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00 PM Worship
Lectionary: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

December 26th - 1ST Sunday after Christmas

11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 13-23



First Friday Taize Service

Please mark your calendars for **Friday, January 7** for our next **First Friday Taize service, held in our sanctuary from 5:30 PM- 6:00 PM.** Many people at UPC expressed great interest in this service before John's accident necessitated a postponement. We hope your interest remains strong and that you will join us for this time of quiet prayer, beautiful music, and spiritual centering.

UPC All-Church Christmas Dinner

On Sunday, December 19, all are invited to share in good food and Christmas cheer at our church-wide Christmas dinner following the **11:00 AM. service.** Tickets for the meal are **\$8 a person with a \$24 limit for a family of four.** You can purchase tickets at church **on December 5 and 12.**



“The Network”
is published monthly for friends and members of University Presbyterian Church. If you wish to submit an article, please contact the church office.
Co-Editors:
Brian Belus
The Reverend Tracy Daub

Food Pantry By The Numbers

Each month, the UPC Food Pantry submits a report to the Food Bank of Western New York, indicating how many households were served during the month, and how many individuals make up those households. We share these statistics with our congregation, which provides such generous support to our pantry, both in time and in donations.

Anyone interested in volunteering one afternoon a month at the Pantry can call Gerry Grisante at 835-0433.

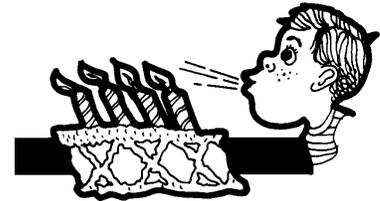
<u>OCTOBER 2010</u>		
Infants	1	Households: 129
Children	53	Equivalent meals:
		2,106
Adults	156	
Elderly	<u>24</u>	
	224	

December Birthdays

4	Alea Cotto-Ecklund
6	Jim Moran
9	Bob Dewitz
9	Dannish Patel
12	Eric Moodie
15	Adele Jackson-Gibson
15	Bonnie Dahl
16	Untae Kim
19	Jim Kline
19	Elizabeth Ball
20	John Maddock
22	Donald Holzman
29	Mark Masters
31	Tiffany Whitefield

YOUNG PRESBYTERIANS

26	Arjun Singh
28	Ajay Singh
30	Abigail Wadkins-Daub



IT'S A DOUBLE WOW!

WOW!

Thank you to all who assisted us and attended our "Halloween Ghoulish Luncheon." We appreciate your support!

Our good will offering totaled \$423.00 and our expenses were \$108.23. We raised \$314.77 for our youth budget line, which helps us fund future events. We all had lots of fun! Again, thank you so much for your support.

"University Senior Highers"

WOW!

To all who baked, set up, sold, cleaned up and BOUGHT at our Election Day Bake Sale - you all made it a success! We raised \$376 for the general operating budget. Many, many thanks.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S
2010 COOKBOOK IS NOW ON SALE!**

**YOU MAY PURCHASE THESE BOOKS ON SUNDAYS
FOLLOWING WORSHIP, OR STOP BY THE CHURCH OFFICE
- MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY FROM 8:30 AM - 4:00
PM. OR ON SUNDAY MORNINGS FOLLOWING WORSHIP.**

BOOKS ARE \$10.00 EACH, PAYABLE AT PURCHASE.

THERE ARE 190 RECIPES:

**28 Appetizers, Dips, Salads, Soups;
43 Main Dishes; 12 Sides; 74 Desserts;**

11 Healthy Living; 22 "Something Else."

**The proceeds from the cookbook sale will go
directly to mission, of which our PW pledges
\$300 annually.**

INTERCOLLEGIATE - INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAYS: December 7th and 14th

Light Meal: 5:00 pm

Study until 6:30 pm

Holzwarth Room

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch



Christmas Cookie Sale

DECEMBER 11TH

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Reid Hall

**There is nothing like homemade Christmas cookies for those who are shut-in,
serving in the armed forces far away from home, or those who have "everything."**

Come, pick your own cookies or assorted trays.

\$7.00 per pound



Advent and Christmas at UPC

2010

- ❖ **Sunday, November 28—First Sunday in Advent**
Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
- ❖ **Saturday, December 4—Hanging of the Greens**
9 a.m.
- ❖ **Sunday, December 5—Second Sunday in Advent**
Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. (communion at both services)
- ❖ **Saturday, December 11—Cookie Sale and Book Sale**
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Reid Hall
- ❖ **Sunday, December 12—Third Sunday in Advent**
Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Christmas Caroling at 1 p.m.
- ❖ **Sunday, December 19 -Fourth Sunday in Advent**
Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
11 a.m. worship will include a children's Christmas pageant
Church Christmas Dinner at 12 noon in Reid Hall
- ❖ **Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve Service**
Worship at 7 p.m.
Carols, Candles, and Communion (child care provided)
- ❖ **Sunday, December 26**
Single Morning Worship Service at 11 a.m.



December 2010 CALENDAR

WEDNES	1st	7:00 pm	Committee Meetings	
THURSDAY	2nd	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
		7:00 pm	Choir	
SATURDAY	4th	10:00 am	Grief Support Breakfast	Family Tree
SUNDAY	5th	9:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
		10:00 am	Education Hour/Children's Choir	Various Rooms
		11:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
MONDAY	6th	1:00 pm	Bridge	
TUESDAY	7th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
		5:00 pm	Bible Study	
THURSDAY	9th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
		7:00 pm	Choir	
FRIDAY	10th	10:00 am	COOKIE SALE SETUP	Kitchen/Reid Hall
SATUR	11th	10:00 am	COOKIE SALE	Reid Hall
SUNDAY	12th	9:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
		9:30 am	Deacon's Meeting	
		10:00 am	Education Hour/Children's Choir	Various Rooms
		11:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
MONDAY	13th	12:00 noon	PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN	Holzwarth Room
TUESDAY	14th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
		5:00 pm	Bible Study	Holzwarth Room
WEDNES	15th	6:00 pm	SESSION	
THURSDAY	16th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
		7:30 pm	Choir	
SATUR	18th	1:00 pm	Knitting Group	Holzwarth Room
SUNDAY	19th	9:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
		10:00 am	Education Hour/Children's Choir	Various Rooms
		11:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
		12:00 noon	Christmas Dinner	Reid Hall
MONDAY	20th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
TUESDAY	21st	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
FRIDAY	24th	7:00 pm	Candelight Service	Sanctuary
SUNDAY	26th	11:00 am	Worship (ONE SERVICE)	Sanctuary
MONDAY	27th		OFFICE CLOSED	
TUESDAY	28th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
THURS	30th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
FRIDAY	31st		OFFICE CLOSED	

Adult Bible Study Class

It is hard to believe, but Advent is upon us, along with the Christmas season. It seems every year, we sing many of the same Christmas carols - the old favorites. These carols - many started out as poetry - have a history that is often colorful and unusual. What do the words bring to your mind when you sing them? Do you think of childhood memories? Do you imagine a baby in a cold stable, born to a young single mother?

Come and join us this Advent. Maybe those "Old Favorites" will take on a new meaning this year.

December 5th - O Come, O Come, Emanuel

December 12th - Silent Night

December 19th - O, Little Town of Bethlehem

Please join us every **Sunday at 10 am.**