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A monthly newsletter for members and friends of University Presbyterian Church February 2014

Pastor's Column

On Sunday, February 2, we will unveil our new mission statement in our worship and at our Congregational Meeting. Actually, you can catch a sneak preview of it in this Network (see accompanying article). This brief statement is the product of our New Beginnings efforts, and reflects the emerging focus around a ministry of "feeding."

In many ways, this "new" mission statement isn't "new" after all but reflects our biblical and Christian heritage. Christ understood the human need for nourishment in body, mind, and spirit. He was always feeding people and joining people in meals. His healings, teachings, and actions of love nourished people in other important ways as well. And as the risen Christ stood on the seashore eating fish with his followers, he summoned them to "feed my sheep."

This focus on feeding others as we ourselves are fed by Christ, the Bread of Life, is the basis for our new mission statement and our vision for the life and ministry of UPC. I invite you to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, February 2 at 12 noon to learn more about the ideas and projects in which this new mission is beginning to take shape.

Tracy



Worship Column ~ February 2014

February 2nd ~ 4th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion

11:00 AM Worship Service with Communion

Lectionary: Michah 6:1-8; Psalm 15;
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

February 9th ~ 5th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship

9:30 AM Deacon's Meeting

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12);
Psalm 112:1-9(10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20

February 16th ~ 6th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Deuteronomy 30:15-20;
Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9;
Matthew 5:21-37

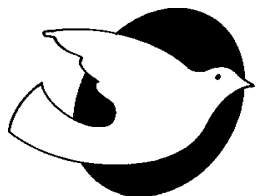
February 23rd ~ 7th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

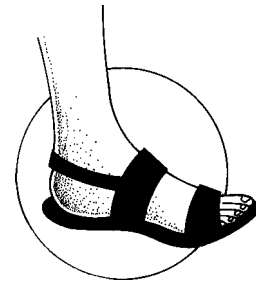
Lectionary: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18;
Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23;
Matthew 5:38-48



Donate Your Soles!

The Ministry in Community Committee is partnering with Hearts With the Homeless which is a charity that has a city mobile soup center and clothing distribution site on Tonawanda Street in Buffalo. If your gently used adult and children soles (shoes, sneakers, sandals or boots) can be used by those who have nothing for their feet, please wrap up your soles in a small grocery bag and place in the designated box located in the Narthex by the food collection basket.

Thank you from those who have no soles.



“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

A New Beginning, a New Mission....

We are a hungry people who receive Christ, the Bread of Life, who sustains us on our journey. We strive to feed as we are fed, sharing the Bread to nourish others in body, mind, and spirit.

“Let Us Be Bread”

Throughout the past year, the New Beginnings team has explored many aspects of our church life, with the ultimate purpose of discerning our future path. It was clear from the beginning that we would need to look at UPC’s mission statement and redefine it, to reflect a fresh new view of who we are as followers of Christ, and what our purpose is within the community.

A small group was formed to develop a new mission statement. The goal was to keep it simple, while embodying what UPC is all about. We began by asking some fundamental questions – Who are we? What is our purpose as a faith community? How does God want us to serve others?

We kept coming back to one recurring theme – being fed and feeding others.

As a congregation, we are already being fed in many, many ways: physically, at the various lunches, weekly coffee hours and other social events we hold; spiritually, in the form of communion, prayer, scripture readings and sermons; our minds are fed at our weekly adult education classes, in addition to occasional discussion groups. **We also feed others in the community:** our food pantry, outdoor hot dog lunches open to the public, Family Promise dinners; holding others in prayer, extending everyday kindnesses, social justice involvement.

The New Beginnings team as a whole is also exploring many new ways we might expand how we feed others in body, mind and spirit.

In developing the new mission statement, we felt it should reflect this basic concept of physical, spiritual and mental nourishment as the foundation of our faith. It was also important to acknowledge that we ourselves are “hungry,” in need of Christ’s nourishment, as much as those we extend his nourishment to.

We are a hungry people who receive Christ, the Bread of Life, who sustains us on our journey.
We must always be aware of our own need for Christ’s nourishment – the Bread of Life.

We strive to feed as we are fed, sharing the Bread to nourish others in body, mind, and spirit.
We must pay it forward and share the Bread of Life with others in need.

Two simple sentences. One powerful message. Feed others as we are fed. ***“Let Us Be Bread.”***

CAMP DUFFIELD

Camp Duffield is looking for individuals who want to experience the wonder of God's world. We need~

~CHILDREN to sign up for summer camp.

~ADULTS who are willing to volunteer their time by working as a counselor, lifeguard, nurse, crafts person, or kitchen help and can commit to one week of service.

Camp Offerings available to you:

~**Parent/Child 24 Intensity-May 23rd-24th-** A fun-filled 24 hour retreat to spend quality time with your child with a structured program.

~**Challenge Camp-July 6th-12th-**a camp for adults with developmentally challenged adults. Cost \$500

~**Science Camp-July 15th-19th-** Children who have completed grades 3-8) get to explore the wonder of the great outdoors.(Cost \$330)

~**Chipmunks-**For our younger folks who want to just participate in a shortened version of the camping experience. (during Science camp or Leapin'Lizards)(Cost \$330)

~**Leapin' Lizards-July 20th-25th-**For those who have completed grades 3rd-8th. (Cost \$330)

~**Night Owls-** A perfect schedule for teens who stay up late and sleep in. (for those who have completed grades 9-12) (Cost\$340)

~**Camp Hope-Aug.10th-16th-** an opportunity for single parent and blended families to enjoy a camping experience of family camping with others who understand.(Cost \$195)

~**Alumni Reunion retreat-Aug.8th-10th**

~**Women's Retreat-October 10th-12th**

~**Men's Retreat-September 26th-28th**

Camperships are available upon request.



For more information, please call Pat Cookfair-Casseri at 440-9833.

INTERCOLLEGIATE – INTERGENERATIONAL

BIBLE STUDY

February 5th and 12th

Light Meal: 5:00 pm – Study until 6:30 pm

Holzwarth Room

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch

A Blessing Story

From Howard and Lee Ann

We were blessed by our participation in the Family Promise dinner at Crossroads Lutheran Church on New Year's Eve 2013. Whereas we had thought that we might be a blessing to others, providing food and companionship to a homeless family from Afghanistan / Tajikistan, we so enjoyed the meal and the conversation with them, and their faith and hope in making a new beginning in life, that it turned out that they were a blessing to us! They had been refugees in Russia where they received no help at all. They obtained admission to the United States and were first placed in Spokane, Washington in order to be close to a Russian-speaking community. They have now relocated to Buffalo to be closer to the husband's sister in Toronto, and once housing is secured they will attend English as a Second Language classes in order to be able to find employment (he is an engineer; she is a nurse). One of their three children is a special needs child who, for the first time in his life at age 12, is able to attend school—and he loves it! What a blessing!

Do you have a "Blessing Story"?

Blessings come to us in many ways. They surprise us at the best and worst of times. Sometimes we don't recognize them until they've passed by. Our *New Beginnings* focus this year is "Blessings". Maybe you have a story that could bless another through the monthly newsletter. Use the space below or as much as you'd like to share and submit to one of the deacons. Some of you may prefer to e-mail your 'blessing story' for editing to:

universitypresbyterian@verizon.net

SUBJECT: Blessings article

Name: _____ **Contact Info:** _____

HELLO MEMBERS

It is in your best interest to use your church envelopes.
This helps us with weekly accounting procedures and is
beneficial for your contribution accountability.
New envelopes are in the Narthex of the church.
Please pick them up as soon as you can.

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND
HELP**



Opportunities to Become a Blessing

Volunteer in the Food Pantry

Help with the Children's
education hour

Prepare a meal for the University
Student Program

Serve as a Liturgist

Call someone you haven't seen
at church in a while

Join the choir

Spring Pool Party

Join us in March to getaway to the Tonawanda
Aquatic Center for an afternoon of swimming.

Mark your calendars for **March 22 from
3:00 to 5:00 pm** for an all ages pool party.

**The admission is \$4.00 for children and
\$5.00 for adults.**

There will be a sign up sheet in the church
hallway bulletin board.

More details to follow in upcoming bulletins.

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.

2013 December	
Infants	1
Children	70
Adults	178
Elderly	60
Total	309
Households	174
Equivalent Meals	2781

Please 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.



February Birthdays

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

YOUNG PRESBYTERIANS

- 6 Linda Moorhouse





Too many of us lead hectic lives.

Our communities are filled with violence and suffering.

Our personal pain and struggles can overwhelm us.

How do we respond? How can we cope?

University Presbyterian Church welcomes Christians from all traditions to unite in a special contemplative worship experience as we seek spiritual strength for the living of our days. Based on the style of worship practiced in the Taize Christian community in France, these services offered on the First Friday of each month provide an oasis at the end of the week for all who are weary, troubled, or rushed. Special music from guest musicians, meditative songs, prayers, candles, and scripture readings allow each of us to find a quiet place of prayer and spiritual centering.

We invite you to join us on **Friday, February 7 from 5:30 - 6 p.m.** University Presbyterian Church is located at 3330 Main St., Buffalo (across the street from UB South Campus) with parking available in the church lot off Niagara Falls Boulevard. The church is also conveniently accessible using public transportation by taking bus or train to the University Metro station. Questions can be directed to the church office at 836-7660.

A Taize Service of Prayer, Music, and Meditation

www.upcbuffalo.org/firstfriday

THE NETWORK
February 2014

Saturday	1st	10:00 am	Grief Support Meeting at Family Tree Restaurant
Sunday	2nd	4th Sunday after Epiphany	
		9:00 am	Worship Service w/Communion
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service w/Communion
		12:00 pm	Annual Meeting –presentation of budget w/voting - informal reception follows
Tuesday	4th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	5th	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch –all welcome
Thursday	6th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Friday	7th	5:30 pm	Taize Service
Sunday	9th	5th Sunday after Epiphany	
		9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Coffee Hour
		12:15 pm	New Beginnings Meeting – Room 104
Monday	10th	12:00 pm	Presbyterian Women – Holzwarth Room
Tuesday	11th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	12th	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch –all welcome
Thursday	13th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	16th	6th Sunday after Epiphany	
		9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Coffee Hour
Tuesday	18th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry (delivery date)
Wednesday	19th	7:00 pm	Session Meeting – Holzwarth Room

Thursday	20th	12 – 4 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Choir Practice
Sunday	23rd	7th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Service Education Hour Worship Service
Tuesday	25th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Thursday	27th	12 – 4 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Choir Practice