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A monthly newsletter for members and friends of University Presbyterian Church November 2011

Pastor's Column

Gratitude. With Thanksgiving approaching at the end of this month, it is the season to recall gratitude. I want to express my gratitude for the four month sabbatical I was blessed to receive. I am grateful to UPC for granting me the time away to rest and renew myself, for the Lily Endowment for funding the sabbatical, for the Rev. Geri Lyon who so capably stepped in to offer her pastoral gifts, and for all at UPC who shouldered some extra responsibilities.

I am also so proud of the pastoral care given and the new endeavors begun during my absence. Members tended to one another in important ways. New work was begun regarding membership matters. New students to our congregation were welcomed and made to feel at home. God's work happened here!

In the spirit of the season, let me say how grateful I am to all of you who share your gifts, talents, and time to enable our ministry in Christ's name to continue and flourish!

Shalom,
Tracy



**THIS WEEK'S
MESSAGE**

Worship Column

November 6th - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM Worship - Communion

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship - Communion

Lectionary: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;
I Thess. 4:13-18; Matthew 24:1-13

November 13th - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; I Thess.
5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 20th - Christ the King

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Ezek. 34:11-16; 20-24; Psalm 100;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

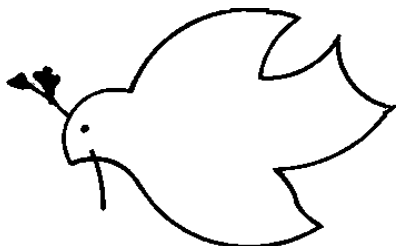
November 27th - 1st Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; I
Corin. 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37



Movie And Discussion At UPC

UPC will have a movie night beginning in Jan. The first film is the PBS documentary "Forgiveness". It will be done on 2 nights since its running time is 3 hours. The 1st night will be on **Jan. 21st, to view the first 2 hours.** Then on the **28th we will see the final hour and have an hour of group discussion.** We'll provide the popcorn and drinks!

Thinking Ahead

This year, as part of our alternative gift giving program, Christmas cards from Heifer International may be purchased. **The cards are 20 for \$15.00.** All orders must be prepaid and will arrive in plenty of time for sending.



"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 **Barbara Pearson, 833-3163.**

Infants	3
Children	72
Adults	181
Elderly	47
	303
Households:	162
Equivalent meals:	2,727



November Birthdays

- 1 Karen Stucker
- 3 Jennifer Cotto-Ecklund
- 5 Lauren Mook
- 7 Mary Jean Conibear
- 11 Sarah Smith
- 11 Elizabeth Harbison
- 11 Brian Belus
- 16 Jim Whitefield
- 18 Gary Melius
- 23 Doug Harbison
- 28 Alma Kelly
- 29 William Harbison

YOUNG PRESBYTERIANS

- 22 Grace Burker
- 26 Nicholas Harbison

Important:

We have had some serious breaches of security in the building. It is imperative that we all be vigilant in locking all doors, including the fire doors and making sure windows are closed and locked when groups leave the building. As always, please leave the building together when your meeting or activity has concluded. This is for your safety and the safety of others.

Taize Service

When the first Friday night of each month rolls around most of us are busy with one thing or another.

But if you are not, you should try to catch the Taize Service at our church between **5:30 - 6:00 p.m.** It really is an exceptional time with a chance for you to talk quietly to GOD and reflect on your spiritual life. Also, there is special music with guest musicians, meditative songs, prayers, candles and scripture readings. Again, if you are not doing anything, give it a try. You will not be disappointed.

A Church Member

Adult Study Class

This fall, the adult study class started a series of bible studies on God's creation and our responsibilities as Christians.

So far, we have studied about the land, oceans, the wilderness and the rivers. We have learned about the Heifer International project from Val Macer. This project offers sustainable resources to poor communities so that they are able to sustain their family and increase their economic well being.

On November 6th, we have a tremendous opportunity to learn from someone who has been involved in providing ecological sustainability around our globe. Dan Castle will be at UPC, in the Holzworth room, at 10 am, to talk with us, and listen to our concerns, about the roll we can play in "Sustaining this rock" we call home. Please join us and give Dan a warm welcome.

On November 20th, Howard Henry will be giving us another update on a long term project that he and LeeAnn have been involved with.

"Frontera de Cristo seeks to respond in positive and faithful ways to decrease the suffering and death here on the border (of Mexico & the U.S.) and beyond." We need to look after God's greatest creation - our fellow brothers and sisters.

Tickets For Musical Play

The youth are planning an afternoon outing to attend the musical play "*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*" performed by the Towne players of Tonawanda. It will be on **December 4th at 2:00 PM**, and the ticket price is **\$7.00**. Call Amy Erickson for tickets and more info.—**876-6874**.

INTERCOLLEGIATE - INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY

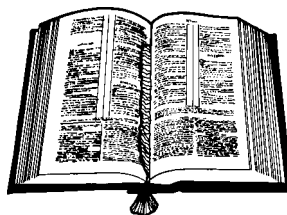
WEDNESDAYS: November 9th and 23rd

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

Holzwarth Room

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP BREAD FALL 2011

Dear good people of the congregation. Thank you again for your outreach of food and friendship to our international travellers to Buffalo State College. Thank you again from our international exchange students, touched as always by this gesture of thoughtfulness. (As usual, the females can put it into words and ask us to express their thanks to you; the guys usually just look sort of mystified, but to a man they recognize that it is food we are providing.) The residence hall student staff members thank you, too. They are amazed by this welcoming kindness and the fact that they are also included. Food goes over big on a college campus.

All of our students arrived late this year, some held up until the day after their scheduled arrival. It wasn't as demanding on us as it usually is, but still it took us a week to recover our sleep pattern and be sure what day of the week it was.

Affonso Bennett-Williams from Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) in England was our first arrival. He has come to study and also play on the Buffalo State soccer team, having visited the campus and met the coaches last year. We gave him a loaf from **Vicki Moorhouse**. Ma (last name) Yingbo (first name) has come from the Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing, China. His home is in Inner Mongolia, and here at Buffalo State he met another student from his home city; they live near each other but had never previously met. He will be here for a year and received a loaf made by **Ginna Coon**.

Alun Vaughan (**Val Macer**), Caitlin Carter (**Joan Secor**), Benjamin McKiernan (**Jude Hammer**), Andrew Hayden (**Jane Somerville**) and Bella Paul (**Hilde Smith**) are all MMU students here to study political science and biology. They will all be here for one year. Daniel Kennelly (**Joan Secor**) is also from MMU and is a history major.

Georgina Chipp, from RMIT (formerly, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) in Melbourne, Australia arrived with her classmate, Kelly Reynolds. Fashion students, we spotted them getting off the train by the amount of luggage they had. A **Grace Yockey** loaf went to "Georgie" and a **Kathy Hallborg** loaf went to Kelly. Our other Australian, Jason Leonardis (**Margaret Twisdale**), is from the University of South Australia in Adelaide, studying hospitality and tourism.

Finally, our Siena, Italy graduate student, Blerina Lani, jumped the hurdles to get her visa and finally arrived on September 3. She is studying English. We gave her one of **Jane Somerville's** loaves.

North Wing houses seven of our students, and with our several arrivals we presented the student residence hall staff with loaves from **Vickie Moorhouse, Ginna Coon, Margaret Twisdale, Hilde Smith, and Jane Somerville**. The residence hall staff in Tower 3, where three of our students are located, got loaves from **Grace Yockey** and **Joan Secor**. Two more students are in Tower 4; their residence hall staff got loaves from **Vickie Moorhouse** and **Hilde Smith**.

Orientation took place on Tuesday, August 23, and we brought out the rest of the loaves from **Ginna Coon** and **Margaret Twisdale**.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your continued kindness.

Lee Ann and Howard

November 2011

Tuesday	1	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		6:30 pm	Stitchery Class
Wednesday	2	10:30 am	Food Pantry Volunteers Mtg.
		7:00 pm	Committee Meetings
Thursday	3	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday	4	5:30 pm	Taize Service
Saturday	5	10:00 am	Grief Support Breakfast
Sunday	6	9:00 am	Worship
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS			
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship
		12:15 pm	University Student Lunch
Tuesday	8	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		6:30 pm	Stitchery Class
Wednesday	9	5:00 pm	Bible Study with "Stu"
Thursday	10	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir
Sunday	13	9:00 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship
		12:15 pm	University Student Lunch
Monday	14	12 noon	Presbyterian Women
Tuesday	15	12 noon	Food Pantry
Wednesday	16	7:00 pm	SESSION
Thursday	17	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir
Sunday	20	9:00 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship
		12:15 pm	University Student Lunch
Monday	21	12:00 noon	Food Pantry-for Thanksgiving
Tuesday	22	12:00 noon	Food Pantry-for Thanksgiving
		6:30 pm	Stitchery Class
Wednesday	23	5:00 pm	Bible Study with "Stu"
Sunday	27	9:00 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship
		12:15 pm	University Student Lunch



First Friday
AT UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 TaizÉ 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, November 4 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 TaizÉ Service of Prayer, Music, and Meditation

www.upcbuffalo.org/firstfriday

Those in worship on Sunday, October 16 participated in some discussions on the topic of money and faith. Below are your responses to the questions we considered in that time of worship.

How does our faith shape our economic decisions: our buying, our saving, our giving etc.

We make a commitment, stand by it and adjust the others, (buying, saving, giving.)

We aren't taking it with us, give all that you have to the poor.

Put God first, then there will be enough for our needs.

Rainy Day Fund

Faith allows us to be more comfortable in giving and more conscientious in buying.

Christian values of compassion and justice dictate/guide our buying, saving and giving.

The quality of ministers, his/her devotion to congregation and ministry.

Much of it is innate. A person of greater will be more caring and hence more likely to give more to a church and place less importance on other things.

The stronger the feeling of church being a family, the more of a necessity to ensure it sustains itself.

The more you are interested in church, the more you want to give to church.

Responsible decisions based on faith.

To see whether you are falling too far behind or getting too far ahead.

Our pledge is paid first then the rest of our bills.

The more money I have the more willing I am to give to church.

It shifts buying and saving to giving.

What one question the relationship between faith and money would you most like to talk about at church?

The possession of money relates to the possession of power. So the more fundamental question may be the relationship between faith and power.

- How do we deal with all the begging - mail that comes to our homes?
- What is our role in supporting our local community financially and socially?
- What's the balance?
- What amount of time of your week do you spend talking to God/thinking about God, church and people and doing the right thing for others?
- How do we get the most for our dollars, locally, overseas and relief missions?
- Does the church budget give an adequate amount to the needy, or is too much spent on building, grounds, etc.
- The best (most efficient) was to do God's work with the resources we have.
- Shall we have faith and trust that help is there for our decisions. Things will work out then.
- How do we move from an economy of guilt to an economy of love, when it comes to stewardship of our resources, if so, much of financial exchange involves impersonal interactions?
- What is a truly responsible communal and individual economic policy that accords with our faith? How can we live it out in 21st century America, where we feel threatened that we don't have enough and perhaps that we will have no where to turn?
- How does our faith direct us to decide how and where we spend money?
- The most common question, when or how do we know when to stop, or save enough for others?
- We are taught to believe God is a provider and to trust him with all we have, but this seems an easy task when one has never been poor. How do we reconcile a decline in income with the idea that God is a loving provider?
- How do we save money and still rely on God?
- I don't wish to discuss money in church.
- It is so difficult to relate both, until you are so economically sound to correlate money to faith. Does it really occur, no matter what, faith and money always go together? For me it's no, sometimes from money constraint I cannot do faith as much as I want.

- How do we use our faith to make sure the money goes to the “priorities” in the “correct order?” Is building repair more important than sustaining missionary work?
- How and why they are linked. Which perhaps the sermon implied. The link is tenuous in a society with no safety nets - “heaven faithful” - there is a need to also be “practical.”
- How do we reconcile the needs of the church with other charitable giving that also is a response to God’s love?
- Am I giving enough? Are others giving enough? Is the money I give being spent wisely by the church?
- Other than tithing, just what is our fair share?
- If Jesus was a carpenter in Buffalo, just how would he spend his money?
- How can you combine the money gifts with time and talents gifts?
- How do we reconcile the guilt of spending with our faith?
- The struggle of paying your bills, saving for retirement, etc. vs. giving more to the church or various charitable opportunities (when you don’t have much money.)
- How to get people to understand the need for money to make sure it can survive.
- When you give an offering, it is out of your faith or because you just feel like it?
- How much is enough? Sometimes it seems no matter what we give there is always the need for more.
- When is giving enough? Is it ever enough?
- What obligation do people of faith have to keep things up, support people?
- Helping other people.
- How much does it cost to run the church?
- What kind of mission/activities/areas could we, as a congregation work together and get excited about, feel dedicated to?
- Where can I see my money go at church; music, education?
- How are faith and money related?

Join us October 30th for a Sunday Service
with

Guillermo Cuellar -

El Salvadoran Singer/ songwriter,
story-teller and personal historian..

Guillermo Cuellar is one of the most famous singer / songwriters in El Salvador. A close friend of the martyred Archbishop *Oscar Romero*, several of Cuellar's songs, from his Salvadoran Popular Mass, were featured in the movie *Romero*. Over the past two decades, Cuellar has traveled and performed extensively throughout the world.

Guillermo Cuellar will perform on Sunday, October 30th, at University Presbyterian Church at 11:00 a.m. as part of the Sunday morning worship. Call 716-836-7660 for more information.