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A monthly newsletter for members and friends of University Presbyterian Church January, 2012

Pastor's Column

I have to admit some relief when the holidays are over. While I do enjoy the festive nature of the season, the increased activities that come with the holidays can also be fatiguing. As I take down the tree, pack up the decorations, and vacuum the fallen needles, I am grateful for the return to a bit of "normalcy."

Of course, we hope that the spiritual lessons of the Christmas season do not get boxed up along with the ornaments. If we take seriously the gift that Christ is born to us, then we can only pray that our lives going forward from Christmas will somehow reflect this gift.

When it was announced to Mary that she would bear God's son, she was understandably perplexed and startled by this news. But she said yes to this plan and to her participation in it. This was by no means an easy or carefree prospect. Mary would have known the social stigma of being an unwed mother. Saying "yes" to the blessing came with significant challenges.

The same invitation is offered to us. Will we consent to bear Christ to the world despite whatever challenges this may bring to us? The preacher Barbara Brown Taylor states that saying "yes" to God is an invitation "to take part in a thrilling and dangerous scheme with no script and no guarantees. You can agree to smuggle God into the world inside your own body."

I like that image of "smuggling God into the world" inside our very selves. It implies that our effort to live out Christ by loving, forgiving, sacrificing, serving, giving generously is in many ways an illicit and counter-cultural activity. Outwardly we may look like "normal" people but really, as we go about our daily lives of working, preparing meals, shopping, attending meetings, paying our bills, we are really carrying Christ into all these everyday circumstances. As we return to "normalcy" in these days and weeks following the Christmas season, perhaps we can keep the true spirit of Christmas alive by saying "yes," as Mary did.

Shalom,
Tracy



**THIS WEEK'S
MESSAGE**

Worship Column

January 1st - 1st Sunday after Christmas

11:00 AM Worship – Communion
Lectionary: Isaiah 61-10-62:3; Psalm 148;
 Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

January 8th -Baptism of the Lord

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29:
 Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

January 15th - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20);
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20;
 John 1:43-51

January 22nd - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

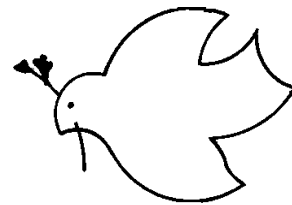
9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

January 29th - 4th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: Deut. 18:15-20; Psalm 111;
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Annual Reports

Annual reports are due to Denise absolutely no later than **Tuesday, January 17th, 2012**. Annual reports will be ready for pick up on **Sunday, January 29th**, so they may be read prior to the annual meeting on **Sunday, February 5th**, following the **11:00 AM worship service**



Remember In Your Prayers

The Sentman and Thompson families on the death of Ruby Sentman Thompson. Ruby died on November 26th following a long illness. Her memorial service was held at UPC on November 30th.



“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

THANK YOU

Many, many thanks to the congregation of UPC for the generous gift presented to me in December. I will truly miss the daily contact with all of you. You have become such an important part of my life. All of the kindnesses shown to me through these years have been truly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

I think so very often about those who are no longer with us, as well as, those who have joined this congregation during my tenure. I think of the four pastors who I have worked for: Alison Halsey, Dorothy Kirk, Richard McConnell and Tracy Daub. I have learned so very much from each and every person in this church.

Thank you to all who have volunteered in the office all these years; collating and labeling newsletters, folding bulletins, collating and stapling the annual reports, and answering phones when I was on vacation. I could not have done it without you!

I will always be grateful to the late Carolyn Neyerlin, who taught me that the Book of Order is indeed the "second" Bible in the Presbyterian Church. I will be always grateful for Eveline MacDonald who taught me to "love" accounting – although it was not my favorite subject in college! But most importantly, I will always be grateful to **ALL** of you.

I am not moving to Iceland, only Kenmore, and I am sure you will see me again. I am leaving you in the capable hands of Denise, and I know in 3 months you will be saying "Mary Ann who?"

Love and blessings to you all.
MaryAnn

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**.

	November	Thanksgiving
Infants	5	4
Children	96	40
Adults	204	134
Elderly	40	30
Households:	182	126
Equivalent meals:	3,105	

INTERCOLLEGIATE – INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS: JANUARY 18TH AND 25TH

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

Holzwarth Room

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch

January Birthdays

- 1 Dorothy Frye
- 3 Smitty Siegel
- 2 Jude Hammer
- 5 Christopher Safulko
- 6 Rose Hoffman
- 8 Virginia Coon
- 8 Erika Betz
- 10 Jean Masters
- 10 John Lopinski, Sr.
- 11 Janet Mazzaroppi
- 12 Sandra Boag
- 12 Marjorie Waldron
- 14 Bilquis Dass
- 17 Carolyn Harbison
- 19 David Patel
- 22 Grace Yockey
- 24 Erin Hershey
- 28 Elizabeth Lucas
- 29 Hans Spielberg
- 29 Eric Dass
- 30 Diane Walker

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

- 26 Mason Appleton



Movie Night At UPC

On Jan. 21st and 28 we will present our first movie night. The first film will be a documentary called “Forgiveness”, a PBS documentary first aired on TV last year. It examines real experiences and events, such as family relationships, the genocide of WWII and Rwanda, and the tragedy of the murder in the Amish community a few years ago. The participants in the film give their background and views on this very difficult emotional healing process. The movie is 3 hours so it will be done an hour and a half on consecutive Saturdays with discussion to follow. All are welcome—hope to see you!

Adult Bible Study Class

At the request of our session, Gladys Gifford has asked representatives of the "Occupy Buffalo" movement to come to UPC on **January 15th, 2012**, to share their mission and their message during the education hour at 10 am. They are eager to share their voices with our congregation and our space at UPC gives them a safe place for peaceful dialogue. This promises to be an important and Spirit-filled opportunity - come, share with everyone, and bring a friend.

Occupy Buffalo continues to maintain its camp on Niagara Square, in front of Buffalo's City Hall. They seek to draw attention to gross economic injustices felt throughout our region and our country. As disciples of Jesus, we have a basic empathy for seeking economic justice. What may we learn from the Occupy movement, to strengthen our own understandings and actions?

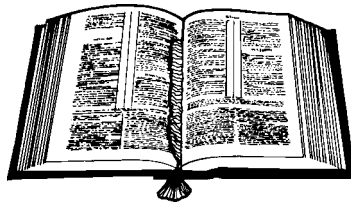
Jan. 1st, 2012 - no class due to the holiday

Jan. 8th, 2012 Seasons of the Spirit bible study - Donna Riddagh

Jan. 15th, 2012 - Occupy Buffalo representatives

Jan. 22nd., 2012 - Seasons of the Spirit bible study - Amy Erikson

Jan. 29th, 2012 Seasons of the Spirit bible study - Rev. Tracy



The new year is starting out with a wonderful opportunity to learn about Christian faith in action. I am thankful we have this chance to go from reading and learning the Word of Christ to seeing these words become relevant in our lives today.

Please join us every week - in room 101.

Thank You's From Buffalo And Haiti

Our September concert with the **Carnival Kids Steel Drum Orchestra** of Lancaster raised funds for two great organizations that serve children and their families. "Attached are the thank you letters we received from **Jericho Road Ministries of Buffalo** and **Free the Kids, Project Hope of Haiti.**" Thank you to all who helped with this event, and those who came to enjoy this fun evening.

JERICHO ROAD MINSTRIES
SERVING WITH YOU ON THE WAY TO WHOLENESS

November 07, 2011

University Presbyterian Church
ATTN: Ms. Bonnie Dahl
3334 Main St.
Buffalo, NY 14214

Dear Bonnie:

We are honored by your church's recent contribution of \$1,000.20 to Jericho Road Ministries as part of the proceeds of your Steel Drum Concert. Your partnership is a vital part of facilitating wellness and self sufficiency within our community and addressing the health, education, and economic barriers our clients face.

Hearts for the marginalized;
Agents of transformation;
Addressing barriers;
Equipping the underserved;
Energized by our faith;
Informed by the community;
Together we are Jericho Road
Ministries

Our vision is for Buffalo to become a city with abundant opportunity for the underserved and marginalized to be healthy, educated, and whole. This gift, and the overall support of people like you, are what make it possible for us to expand and enrich the services we provide.

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Thank you for being a contributing member of our Jericho Road family!

Free The Kids
HELPING HAITI'S CHILDREN

October 8, 2011

Dear Pastor Tracy and Ministry to Community Committee,

On behalf of Fr. Marc, the founder and director of Pwoje Espwa (Project Hope) and the children of the orphanage in Haiti, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your contribution of \$1000.20 raised at the steel band concert on Sept. 18th. Your gift will be used to provide food, clothing and medicine for the 680 children in our care.

I advised Fr. Marc of your generosity and he e-bbemailed back as follows:

Dear Friends at University Presbyterian Church. Be assured of my and the children's appreciation for your gracious gift of love. Please keep us in prayer as we pray for you and all our donors. Life here in Haiti is difficult. But with your help, our children are leading healthy lives and getting an education that very few here have the opportunity to receive. May God, our Father, bless you and keep you in His care. Fr. Marc

For updates on our project please visit our website:
www.FreeTheKids.orgbb and click on Fr. Marc's Blog.

Gratefully,

Jack Reynolds
FreeTheKids

P.S. Free The Kids' (formerly Theo's Work) sole mission is to support Pwohe Espwa in Haiti

JANUARY 2012

Sunday	1	11:00 am	Worship - Communion
Monday	2	OFFICE CLOSED	Happy New Year
Tuesday	3	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		7:00 pm	Vision Group Meeting
Wednesday	4	6:00 pm	Stewardship Meeting
		7:00 pm	Committee Meetings
Thursday	5	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir
Friday	6	5:30 pm	Taize'
Saturday	7	10:00 am	Grief Support Breakfast - Family Tree
Sunday	8	9:00 am	Worship
		9:30 am	Deacons Meeting
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship
		12:15 pm	ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUC MTG
Monday	9	12:00 noon	Presbyterian Women
Tuesday	10	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Thursday	12	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir
Sunday	15	9:00 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship
Monday	16	OFFICE CLOSED	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Tuesday	17	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		Committee Reports due to Office	
Wednesday	18	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Stu
		7:00 pm	SESSION
Thursday	19	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir
Saturday	21	to be announced	Movie Night
Sunday	22	9:00 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship
		12:15 pm	University Student Lunch
Tuesday	24	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Wednesday	25	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Stu
		6:30 pm	Long Range Planning Meeting
Thursday	26	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Saturday	28	to be announced	Movie Night
Sunday	29	9:00 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship
		12:15 pm	University Student Lunch
			ANNUAL REPORTS TO BE DISTRIBUTED



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, January 6 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

December Session Meeting

The Session of University Presbyterian Church met at the church, 3330 Main St, Buffalo, NY on December 13th, 2011. The Session would like to keep the congregation informed of our activities and we welcome your input.

Denise Winiarski was introduced to Session and welcomed as our new administrative assistant. A sincere thank you was expressed for the work and support provided by MaryAnn MacDonald over the years, and a wish for a long and happy retirement for her.

The long range planning group met again on November 30th with our facilitator, Sally Treanor. The group reviewed several areas and questions about how we view or would like to see the future life of the congregation. Mission and vision statements are being developed, as well as action plans. We will meet again with Sally in late January to complete this process.

Session is planning to put into place a Child Protection Policy for the church. Several policy models are available to work from. Sandy Robertson will create a draft to present for Session's approval.

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5th following the 11:00 service. Committee reports need to be provided to the office by early January. The proposed budget for 2012 will be reviewed by Session at our January meeting.

There was discussion that the actual cost of many church events is not identified in our budget because so many committee members provide food or materials as a donation for those events. The suggestion was made to ensure that "in-kind" donations are tracked by each committee and also submitted to the church office on a voucher. The details are to be worked out.

Session reviewed a "Declaration of solidarity and Support for Occupy Buffalo" that was created by the Interfaith Peace Network of Western New York. There followed a substantive discussion of the goals of Occupy Buffalo, with general agreement that questions remain about what they want to achieve, how will they know when they have achieved their goals, why do they feel the need to be outside in a Buffalo winter. Session voted to table a motion to join the congregations that have signed this support document, and to invite spokespeople from Occupy Buffalo to join us at an Adult Education class in January so we can better understand their efforts.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be held in July 2012 in Pittsburgh, PA. There was discussion that the closeness of this location may provide an opportunity for a group from UPC to participate in this church event. More to come.