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

Pastor's Column

What are your thoughts as we enter the New Year? Just prior to Christmas I ran into a friend at the grocery store. In the previous twelve months she had experienced a great deal of hardship, loss, and grief. As we chatted in the store, she said, "I can't wait for 2013 to be done!" Some years are like that for us—we can't wait to be rid of them. And even though all we've really done on New Year's is turn the page of the calendar from one year to the next, it can feel as if we are really making a fresh, new start.

The Christian faith incorporates this very human need for rituals that allow us to leave the past behind and to make a fresh start. Baptism is, of course, the most well-known of such rituals. Baptism symbolizes the discarding of an old life and the adoption of the new life in Christ. And while the date of our actual baptism may have been a long, long time ago, the Christian life encourages us to recall our baptism each and every day. The great reformer Martin Luther, is said to have placed his hand on his forehead each morning and uttered, "I've been baptized. I've been baptized." Each day, indeed each moment, affords us an opportunity to repent and re-affirm this new life in Christ.

Our congregation is in the process of making a fresh start, of sorts. The New Beginning's process has afforded us the opportunity to examine our ministries and explore how we can faithfully be Christ's disciples in a new way. In this new year, some of these "new" things coming from New Beginnings will begin to unfold. Next month we will share a brand new mission statement. There are some new ministries that, while still in their infancy stages of planning, we hope will be launched this year. Longer-range explorations of other programs and uses of our building are picking up speed.

The trust we have, both as individuals and as a congregation, is that God holds our future. Whatever the New Year brings, we give thanks and praise in anticipation of blessings God is bringing to bear.

Happy New Year!
Tracy



**THIS WEEK'S
MESSAGE**

Worship Column ~ January 2014

January 5th - 2nd Sunday after Christmas

9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion
11:00 AM Worship Service with Communion
Lectionary: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20;
 Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18

January 12th ~ Baptism of the Lord

9:00 AM Worship
9:30 AM Deacon's Meeting
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29:
 Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

January 19th ~ 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11;
 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

January 26th ~ 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;
 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Advent and Christmas seasons so meaningful. Thanks also to our choir members, youth and everyone who participated in Christmas Caroling on December 15th. This important ministry is much appreciated by everyone we visit.

Courtesy of John Novak.



“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

Rediscovering Paul: An Adult Education class series

The apostle Paul was probably the most influential leader and writer of the early Christian movement. Thirteen letters (epistles) in the New Testament have been traditionally attributed to Paul.

Just who was Paul, and how should we think of him? Were some of his letters more important than others? Which churches did he found? How do we understand some of his apparently contradictory statements? Was he in favor or not of women's leadership in the early church?

This series takes an in-depth look at this most influential figure of the Christian tradition by looking at three specific themes of Paul:

"Paul: His Life and Thought," led by Tracy Daub. This three-session study provides a summary of who Paul was, his conversion experience, and some of the main beliefs he had about who Christ was and how Christians should live.

Next we will look at: "Paul's Journeys," as we study Paul's three missionary journeys. What he saw and what he did on each of the journeys will be discussed.

Finally we will examine "Paul and the Role of Women in the Church." This two-session study examines Paul's statements and actions in order to conclude just what Paul really thought about women and their role in the church.

This 8 week series begins on January 5, 2014. All are welcome!

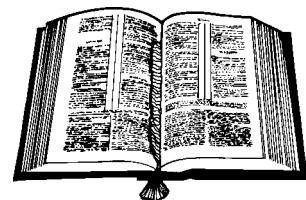
INTERCOLLEGIATE – INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY

**January 8th, February 5th and 12th
Light Meal: 5:00 pm – Study until 6:30 pm**

Holzwarth Room

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch



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 November	Thanksgiving
Infants	1	0
Children	96	46
Adults	183	100
Elderly	48	39
Total	328	185
	Households	179
	Equivalent Meals	2952

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.

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 Spielberger
- 29 Eric Dass
- 30 Diane Walker

Young Presbyterians

- 19 Kaylee Casseri
- 26 Mason Appleton



A Blessing Note

By Vicki Moorhouse

The Gift of Children

When I was first asked to write this piece, I was going to focus on my son Timothy and how he overcame some medical issues. However, after spending time with the children of this congregation, I decided to take a different approach.

We are so fortunate to have an amazing group of young children here at University Presbyterian Church. In November, we held the annual sleep-over. I was so surprised how the kids interact with each other. While playing a spirited game of "Pass the Pigs", not one of them complained if he/she lost points. They encouraged each other with such creative enthusiasm; I thought Amy, Dennis and I were going to laugh ourselves silly.

The past few years I have had the pleasure of organizing the Christmas Pageant. I am always amazed at the joy these kids exhibit during this time. This year I was so proud of one kid. He had agreed to perform a part in the show, but when 2 other kids came late, he offered to give up his part if someone else wanted it instead. You don't see that kind of respect very often from kids these days.

That is the main thing I have noticed about our youth, they respect each other as individuals. I have never heard any of them speak negatively about each other. Watching them grow up together has been a blessing I will keep with me forever.

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:** _____

Camp Duffield News

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.



Movie Night!

Sunday, January 26, 2014 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

As we begin 2014, there are many wonderful things to behold! New Beginnings is moving forward, we'll soon have a new mission statement and your Worship Planning Team for the first months of the year is hard at work. Our theme for this time, which encompasses Epiphany, Lent and Easter, is "Let Us Be Bread" and we'll kick off the festivities with a movie night on Sunday, January 26. Join us as we watch "Big Night", starring Tony Shalhoub, Stanley Tucci and an all star cast. The movie is about a failing Italian restaurant run by two brothers who gamble on one special night to try to save the business and asks us to consider that "in love and life, one big night can change everything".

We'll enjoy a simple supper and some lively discussion following the movie. {The movie is rated R for language so this event is best suited for adults.}

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***

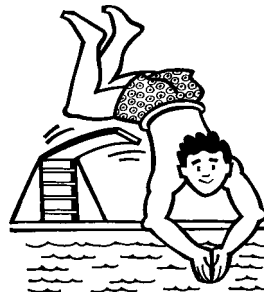
Serve as a Liturgist

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

Join the choir

Pool Party

Join us in January to getaway to the Tonawanda Aquatic Center for an afternoon of swimming. Mark your calendars for **January 18, 2014 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.



Member Profile – January 2014

We'll ring in the New Year with Howard Henry (who happens to be a former bell ringer with the church). Howard was born in Akron, Ohio, raised in Wanakah (Hamburg), moved to Chicago for graduate school and ran away to London, UK to avoid growing up. He is the second (older sister, younger twin brothers) of four siblings. Howard has been fortunate to have two loving marriages, wife No. 1 lamenting "I'm just training you for the next woman." Returning to church brought him into the choir for the first time in his life where he was smitten by Lee Ann Grace, eventually asking her to share his life with him. Fortunately for Howard, Lee Ann said yes, taking on the rest of the training project—still a work in progress. Because of Lee Ann, Howard has gratefully become a step-father to Michael and now "Papa Howard" to Andrew and Abigail.

Howard is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (current), and Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor Emeritus. He worked for 25 years in the field of addictions treatment. He was an adjunct faculty member for SUNY Buffalo State for more than 15 years. He also assisted Lee Ann with international education projects during the course of her career. Currently he volunteers with UsTOO!, and he and Lee Ann have volunteered since 1990 with the Presbyterian border mission program, Frontera de Cristo in Douglas, AZ, and Agua Prieta, SON, MEX, helping to bring awareness of delicious Just Coffee from Chiapas (www.justcoffee.org) to Western New York. He remains politically active with his union in retirement.

When Howard is not working his volunteer jobs, he enjoys many hobbies such as researching and writing about Buffalo baseball history. He also loves to travel and taking in a play or movie, as well as a quiet moment reading. Lee Ann has trained him to like opera. He often will sing to himself and fool around with a harmonica and hum, the latter of which drives his good wife crazy!

(Continued on Page 9)

Howard joined UPC in 1985 by reaffirmation of faith. The faith had never gone away but Howard had spent 10 years of Sunday mornings in running shoes in Delaware Park, unable to reconcile the church's rejection of GBLT candidates for ordination. (Howard is a Certificate graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago.) The need to worship with a body of believers brought him back to services, but an unwillingness to just "sit there and listen" brought him into the choir. Howard decided to join UPC because there was a special needs class that attended worship. "If this congregation is open to accepting this group", he said to himself, "certainly they will tolerate me". A regular diet of church dinners—and leftovers from the good ladies of the church, until they saw he had hooked up with Lee Ann—kept him coming. Also, Howard just plain needs to make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Besides being a faithful choir member, Howard has served as a Deacon and an Elder (as well as in other congregations). He's joined various committees, but not for very long. He would rather be a prophet and some of those people are pretty hard to take. Also, like Paul, Howard tends to think he is right about everything. Having once been called an "intellectual snob" was actually helpful to him.

Howard said, "The faith that has been given to me must find expression in fairness and justice and love, Or, love and justice and fairness has been given to me to express joyfully, even when I keep falling short of doing so. Going to seminary gave me greater insight into faith. Working with addicts gave me greater insight into grace and wisdom. Being loved by others has called forth the need to love in return."

Howard's humorous approach to life reminds us never to take ourselves too seriously and to always view the glass as being half full. Thank you Howard for reminding us and we look forward to many more years of listening to you in the choir.



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 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, January 3rd 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

January 2014

Wednesday	1 st	OFFICE CLOSED - Happy New Year	
Thursday	2 nd	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
		Choir practice resumes on Thursday, January 9 th	
Friday	3 rd	5:30 pm	Taize Service
Saturday	4 th	10:00 am	Grief Support Meeting at Family Tree Restaurant
Sunday	5 th	Second Sunday After Christmas	
		9:00 am	Worship Service w/Communion
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service w/Communion
		12:00 pm	Coffee Hour
Tuesday	7 th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	8 th	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch –all welcome
		6:00 pm	Ministry to Community Committee Meeting
			<i>New members are always welcome to join.</i>
Thursday	9 th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	12 th	Baptism of the Lord	
		9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Coffee Hour
Monday	13 th	12:00 pm	Presbyterian Women – Holzwarth Room
Tuesday	14 th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	15 th	7:00 pm	Session Meeting – Holzwarth Room
Thursday	16 th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Saturday	18 th	3 – 5 pm	Pool Party at Tonawanda Aquatic & Fitness Center

Sunday	19th	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	
		9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Coffee Hour
Monday	20th	Office Closed – observance – Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.	
Tuesday	21st	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry (delivery date)
Thursday	23rd	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	26th	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	
		9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Coffee Hour
Tuesday	28th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Thursday	30th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir Practice