



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061-1715

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 9 November 2009

Worship at First United Methodist in October

Pastor Bob Lowenthal will be preaching each Sunday in November. Sunday, November 1st will be our monthly Holy Communion celebration. On Sunday, November 22nd we will have a student from the Cornerstone Campus Ministry serving as our Liturgist. Also special that day will be the Cornerstone Bake Sale in the Fellowship Hall. You might want to buy something special for Thanksgiving. That evening there will be a Thanksgiving Prayer Service here at our church. Details for this service are elsewhere in this issue of the BELL. And the last Sunday of the month, November 29th, the Advent season starts. It is also the beginning of Year C in the Lectionary cycle.

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From the Pastor's Desk. . .

I'm sitting in my office this Saturday morning, listening to the rain outside, and finally getting to this note to you-all for the Bell (if it gets there- our Bell editor has had the "patience of George" –was that the name?- thanks to George for his faithful writing and editing each month!) I have finished with the writing and phoning and other responsibilities for the week, so relaxing a bit at the moment. I will go to the Y this afternoon for a workout. I talked to Andy (our son) last night and he is coming to the house for dinner tonight- it was a four and a half hour drive to our home in Vermont, so this is a treat to have him able to "come over for dinner". We will eat, then watch a ball game together. Abe, our youngest son, has moved to Saranac Lake, where he feels at home, and got a job right away- he seems to be getting along and beginning to be settled after a time of transition. Ben, our oldest, is settled into his new home in Vermont. Joy is away at a conference this weekend, and enjoying being near her friends in the Albany area.

All of this is to say that it's beginning to feel like we are here, like we belong here, and things are beginning to get settled.

And, I'm feeling good about being among you- a part of the Church, and a becoming part of the ministries we have together. It has been great to meet so many of you at the Meetandgreet- 85 people attended altogether, and we have had some good conversation... Let's keep moving forward.

Thanks, Bless, and see you in Church!

Bob

Worship at First United Methodist in November *(continued)*

The Lectionary for November

November 1 - Isa 25:6-9; Ps 24; Rev 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

November 8 – Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Ps 127; Heb 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

November 15 – 1 Sam 1:4-20; 1 Sam 2:1-10; Ps 113; Heb 10:11-14(15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

November 22 – 2 Sam 23:1-7; Ps 132:1-12; John 18:33-37; Rev 1:4b-8

November 26 – Thanksgiving Day – Joel 2:21-27; Ps 126; 1 Tim 2:1-7; Matt 6:25-33

November 29 – Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:1-10; 1 Thess 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Bible Sunday

Bible Sunday is Nov. 22nd. This is the day that the 2nd graders get their very own Bibles during morning worship. It is a very exciting day for our 2nd graders!

Sunday School Missions

We will have a cookbook fund raiser to support our missions beginning November 8th. These amazing little cookbooks make great gifts, they will arrive in time for the holidays.

We are supporting **two missions** so far this year:

The Ben Fund: Ben Stowell was a 9 year old boy that lost his battle with cancer on October 12th, 2009. Ben and his family courageously fought his cancer for 3 years, they remained optimistic and spiritual throughout their battle. They are an amazing family, our thoughts and prayers are with them. After the medical bills are paid off, the money will roll over into a foundation to support other families battling pediatric cancer.

We will hold a **pet food drive** in January. Families are having to give up their pets because they can't afford them. We will donate half the food that we collect to food pantries, and the other half to animal shelters. This will be a hands-on mission so the younger children can visualize helping others.



Please Support
Our Mission Funds

OF INTEREST TO THE YOUTH

United Methodist Youth Fellowship News

Fun at Skye Farm

This youth had so much fun at their retreat in Skye Farm and Adirondack Extreme. We met new people and met up with old friends and hung out with some awesome people. We did a lot of fun activities and it was a great learning experience, and some fun night time activities. I can't wait for next year because I would go on this trip every weekend if I could. Thanks for the great weekend Rachel, Laura and all the volunteer drivers.

–Corey Haughton

THE BELL is published monthly (with the exception of August) by the First United Methodist Church, 1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061-1715. November 2009, Volume 11, Issue 9. G. Herrick, R. Lowenthal, H. Volke, M. Flowers, **Editing Team.** **The Church Staff:** Rev. Robert Lowenthal, **Pastor;** Heidi Gran, **Coordinator of Children's Christian Education;** Laura Clark & Rachel Giso, **Youth Leaders;** Helen L. Gustafson, **Organist/Choir Director;** Hazel Volke, **Administrative Assistant;** Bob Ellis, **Custodian;** David Smith, **Lay Leader;** Melissa Dubuque, **Child Care Provider;** Matthew Barry, **Peer Minister, Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry, The University at Albany;** Bishop John K. Yambasu, **Bishop of The UMC in Sierra Leone.**

MORE YOUTH INFO

Congratulation to the 2009-2010 UMYF Officers!

President:	Allison Walkley
Vice President:	Emily Fuller
Secretary:	Corey Haughton
Treasurers:	Ryan Gronostaj and Allison Fuller

What's happening in November?

Youth in grades 8-12 will be **attending YAC**, Youth Autumn Celebration on Nov. 6-7 in Glens Falls. The time together is spent in small and large groups. Singing, games, discussion, and sharing are all a part of this event.

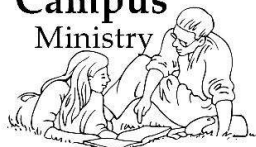
The **Mystery Dinner** is Friday, November 13th. Tickets can be purchased in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults with a choice of a chicken and rice casserole, or ziti; with or without meatballs. Dinner also includes a choice of side salad or vegetable minestrone soup. Beverages, rolls and dessert are included. A children's meal of a hotdog and macaroni and cheese is also available for \$5.00. A limited number of tickets will be sold, so reserve your spot ASAP and don't miss the Mystery. Seating will take place from 6-6:30. We will need all youth and as many parents as possible to make this fundraising event a success.

If you are able to help, need more information or have any questions, contact your leaders, Laura Clark laura104@yahoo.com 674-5283, and Rachel Giso rgiso@fairpoint.net 766-0421.

CHURCH NEWS

Barry Named

Campus Ministry



Peer Minister

At the October meeting of the Administrative Council action was taken to name Matthew Barry as "our" Peer Minister, Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry, The University at Albany. Matt is a senior at the University and President of Cornerstone Campus Ministry. You may remember him as our Liturgist for morning worship on September 20th. Each Peer Minister that works with Chaplain Sandy Damhof has a specific responsibility. Matt is the Interfaith Liaison for the Campus Ministry. His job, as he explains it, "is to organize events between the different faith groups on campus." In naming Matt, we have accepted a pledge of five hundred dollars to support the peer ministry program (not Matt specifically) at the University. For us, this pledge is a non-budget item. For many years The United Methodist Church has been a strong supporter of higher education and if you are interested in helping continue that support by giving to meet our pledge for this ministry program, you can put a check in the Sunday morning offering plate. Be sure to mark the memo section, "**Cornerstone Peer Ministry**". Thanks to some early supporters one hundred seventy five dollars has already been raised toward our pledge.

Trustees

On behalf of the congregation, the Trustees thank ALL who volunteered their time and experience maintaining and beautifying the Church and its grounds this last spring, summer and fall. Your work in mowing, painting, carpentry, planting and weeding, repairing engines and electrical systems reflect a caring for what we have been given and what we can share with our community.

MORE CHURCH NEWS

Staff/Parish News

Hazel Volke, our church's Administrative Assistant is planning on **retiring in mid-December**. To honor Hazel and this major event in her life, we will have a special Coffee Hour following morning worship on December 6th.



Administrative
Assistant
Wanted

Job opening: Staff/Parish Relations Committee is seeking applicants for our Administrative Assistant position. Office experience required; computer skills a must. The hours are: M-F, 9-2:30. Call Nancy Keenholts at 477-4783 (evenings), and/or email resume to: nark19@verizon.net

The Staff/Parish Relations Committee has received the following letter:

I am a member of the East Greenbush, New York, First Methodist Church, and I hold the position of Organist/Choir Director.

In September, 2009, I began my 30th church year as O/D.

In January, 2010, I will retire from my position as director of Sanctuary Choir, while keeping my position as church organist and accompanist of the Sanctuary Choir.

Sincerely,

Helen L. Gustafson

Len Finke, chair of SPRC, read Helen's letter to the congregation at the beginning of morning worship on October 25, 2009. He then thanked Helen for her years of service to the church. The congregation followed with a strong round of applause.

The Staff/Parish Relations Committee is now **looking for a sanctuary choir director replacement**. If you are interested or you know of someone who might be interested, please contact Len Finke, 477-7365, or Matie Flowers, 477-5645, by November 15.



Calling All Email Addresses!



In an effort to reduce paper waste and church expenses, the Eco Team is asking for your name and email address so that you can receive your copy of *The Church Bell* electronically. Each month, sending *The Church Bell* by mail costs the church \$125, and requires 2½ hours of labor for 2 to 3 people. (That's just the mailing part of the process. It does not include the editing and printing time and expense.) You can help reduce this effort by sending your NAME and email address to the church at this address: mail.equmc@verizon.net. Remember, the word "mail" is part of the address. Be sure to include it. The Church BELL will still be sent to those who don't respond to this request. Also indicate if you would like to receive George Herrick's preview of the upcoming Sunday worship service. You will love it! If you are already receiving George's preview email, please send your email address directly to the church again and include your NAME. We are doing this to clarify and update that current email list. Thanks, The Eco Team.

Church Memorial Gardens

Special thanks to Dick Pearce for planting at the Original Church Sign with fall flowers for us to enjoy this fall and new bulbs for us to enjoy next spring; to Mary Comstock and Lois Heyer for transplanting herbs into the Herb Garden located outside of the kitchen for us to also enjoy next year; to Mary McIntosh for helping to keep the Memorial Island weed free; to Carrie Larson for helping to keep the weeks away at the Fellowship Hall Entrance; and to Laura Clark, Rachel Giso and the Youth Group for planting garlic this fall for harvest in the early autumn next year.

MORE CHURCH NEWS

2009 Stewardship Campaign

Consecration Sunday: November 15, 2009

Each week for four weeks this fall a member of the laity of our church has been scheduled to speak on behalf of our Stewardship Campaign at the beginning of Sunday morning worship. We have now reached the half-way point of that schedule:

October 18th - Mattie Flowers speaks about Our Mission as a Church

October 25th - Three members talk about what the Church means to them:

Mary McIntosh, Valerie Hodge, and Amber Biechman

November 1st - Jerry Dunn speaks about the Church budget

November 8th - Dreams and Visions for our Church- Aaron Howland, Chair, Finance Committee

November 15th - Consecration Sunday: Pastor's sermon centers on Christian giving; On this Sunday estimate of giving cards will be distributed during the service. Families and individuals will have the opportunity to fill them out and then they will be placed on the altar.



The Stewardship Campaign also has a schedule of written communications:

1. Notes in the October and November *Bell*
2. Letters to active members and constituents week of October 19 (they were actually mailed week of 10/26)
3. Follow-up letters, with estimate of giving cards, to those not able to pledge November 15.
4. Early December: confirmation letters to those who have pledged

Doing the estimate of giving cards at our November 15 worship service has us considering our commitment to God and the Church in the context of worship. Giving is a part of our life of faith, and so we sing and hear Scripture and pray and give- and plan our giving- in the context of our life together, of worship, of prayer. Let us be about our Father's business.

Thanksgiving Holiday Worship

Two Different Services



We will have a **Thanksgiving Prayer Service** for the Ecumenical Community here **in our church on Sunday, November 22nd** beginning at 6pm. There will be some singing, scripture reading, time of prayer, time of reflection – all of this followed by a pot-luck supper. Here is a chance to worship and feast (lighter than Thursday) with members of our congregation and with others in the community. All are welcome and invited to attend.

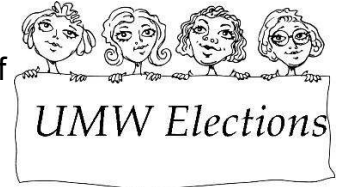
The Capital Area Council of Churches will sponsor the 73rd Annual **Community Thanksgiving Day** worship service beginning at 10am at **the Episcopal Cathedral of All Saints on November 26th**. Rev. Dr. Harold M. Delhagen, Albany Synod Executive, Reformed Church in America will preach the sermon.

United Methodist Women

The next UMW meeting is November 2nd at 7pm. We are doing Nominations of Officers and Election of Officers. Then we will be planning the program for 2010. It is very important that all officers attend.

Nomination for UMW offices: there are two offices to be filled:

COFFEE HOUR: We are looking for one person a month to take the role of getting coffee makers and juice people.



THRIFT SALE COMMITTEE: A group who will work together to run the Spring Thrift Sale. You meet the month before the sale to plan and iron out details.

If you are interested in either of these offices please contact the UMW Vice- President: Patty Chartrand 732-2940 or chartrand.gtunez@gmail.com

The Giving Tree is back on November 22 and again the gifts will be for the Concerns-U Christmas Store. It is easy just pick a slip or two from the tree and buy the items bring it back by December 16 and place it in the basket in the foyer. The clients and staff at Concerns-U and the children thank you.

A Tool For Personal Meditation



Meditation

A couple of years ago a meditation tool was suggested to many at Thanksgiving time. Here is that invitation once again. The labyrinth is still available and our need to take time and give thanks is still present. *You are warmly invited to journey through the ten stages of an on-line labyrinth, devised by the Methodist Church of Great Britain, but offered to all. A labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool that leads the traveller along a meditative path. Through images, words, music and actions we hope that you are able to consider your spiritual journey and be inspired and challenged. The labyrinth can be found at: www.lostinwonder.org.uk on the internet.*

Sharing the Growing Experience 2009

Thank you to the Sharing the Growing Experience 2009 participants:

Dana Barsalow, Logan Barsalow, Grant Beale, Beth Berkun, Kaylee Berkun, Luke Calyer, Susie Calyer, Betty Collins, Joe Collins, Charlie Comstock, Mary Comstock, Kyle Gronostaj, Ryan Gronostaj, Lois Heyer, Olive Felio, Carrie Larson, Karen Larson, Mathew Larson, Peter Larson, Susan Larson, Julie Lettrick, Mike Lettrick, Rickey Lettrick, Toni Lettrick, Joy Lowenthal, Linda Marschner, Mary McIntosh, Dick Pearce, Aleta Schweigert, Florence Skiff, David Smith, and Mary Smith. You helped by planning, preparing the soil, planting, weeding, watering, harvesting or delivering. Despite the late planting, heavy rain and blight, much produce was grown and provided to Concerns-U. They were thrilled to get what we had on a regular basis. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Mark Your Calendar

The Sanctuary Choir is preparing an evening of fun and fellowship for the whole family on Friday, December 11th, starting at 7pm. We hope that you will join us for a Christmas program of carols, cookies and more.



Wanted — Student Information

Do you have a **college student in your family**? We would like to compile a list of these youth so that the church can maintain a contact with them while they are at school either in our local community or miles away. Please send names, addresses and college names to the church office.



Bishop Matthews Waiting in the Wings



Bishop Marcus Matthews, Resident Bishop of the New York West Episcopal Area, will become Bishop of **The Upper New York Annual Conference**, the proposed name for our new Annual Conference which will come into being in 2010. Bishop Susan W. Hassinger, our current Bishop, introduced Bishop Matthews to a crowd of about one hundred people at Christ Church, UMC, in Troy on October 19, 2009. (There is a picture of both Bishops on the bulletin board in the church foyer.) Bishop Matthews came to the gathering to introduce himself and he did so by telling us something about his life growing up in the south. He spoke of three key ideas important in his growth. First he suggested interdependence is the key to survival. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 explains this idea is pointed words. He told of all those who became role models for him and how they help him grow into adulthood. A second idea was the importance of positive thinking. His uncle told him how important it was that he surround himself with positive people. And his third idea was to develop the ability to look at road blocks in life not as stalling blocks but as challenges. Challenges provide an impetus for growth. He concluded his remarks with a request to all of us present. In our morning prayers, pray for support of the new Upper New York Area. Ask that whatever we do to prepare for the transition from four annual conferences to one, that it be God's design, God's will. The change in conference structure will take place on July 1, 2010.

T'is the Season for Giving Thanks!

Thanksgiving is a time when we spend a little more thought and time on the gifts God has provided us. A time to reflect on all the bounty laid before us: our lives, our talents, our homes, our families, our friends, our possessions, and all that God has blessed us with. It is also a time for us to think about the giving and sharing of these blessings. The Thanksgiving Coffeehouse is Friday November 20, 2009. It is a time to share our talents with one another, to share food with each other, to share time with those people who are important to us. It is also a time to share our bounty with



those less fortunate. All of our coffeehouses are free of charge. We do collect a free-will offering, and the one for November is for the Regional Food Bank. We hope to help in some small way to feed the hungry among us and provide them another reason for thanking the Lord for their blessings. So please come and share with us your presence, your talents, and your love. And consider sharing further with those whose Thanksgiving you can make that much more thanks-filled. See you in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm sharp!

Thanksgiving Coffee House

Friday, November 20, 2009, starting at 7pm.