



NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR...

This is the last newsletter for the current program year, and it is the last newsletter that I will write before entering the “retired” relationship with our conference, and the “semi-retired relationship” with WUMC! I have to admit that I am looking forward to it!

Still, as I look back over the past eight years, I am filled with many beautiful memories. I recall how excited I was to being able to co-pastor with Jim Pollard, and what a time we had together! It was then that I began to get to know all of you, and your acceptance and caring were so affirming. It was as great to be here as I had imagined.

Over time, we experienced many changes in pastoral and professional staff and volunteers that have brought us to where we are today. The growth we have experienced in membership and in ministry could never have happened without the wonderful team I’ve had working with me. I cannot say enough about their dedication to this church and their commitment to Jesus Christ. And not only did we work for all of you, we had fun doing it! The problem now, is to find the space to continue to grow!

The most memorable times I have had here center around the relationships that we have developed together. We may not always have agreed with one another, but we were willing to listen to one another. Weddings, baptisms, confirmations and memorial services allowed me the opportunity to work closely with individuals and families, and it was an honor to be invited to preside at these events. But most of all, I have treasured the opportunities to distribute the Sacrament of Holy Communion to each of you.

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**SUMMER
WORSHIP SCHEDULE
BEGINS ON JUNE 1st**

**ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ON
SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM**

**SUMMER
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
ARE IN EFFECT
JUNE 16 - AUGUST 15, 2008**

**MONDAY - THURSDAY
9:00AM - 1:00 PM**

FRIDAY - CLOSED

Williamsville United Methodist Church
5681 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 634-4800 www.williamsvilleumc.org

Williamsville United Methodist Church
The Methodist Messenger

Note from the Pastor (continued from page one)

I had set a goal of trying to call each of you by name and I think I'm 98% there. The other 2% is when I know your name, but simply pull a blank at that moment! Forgive me, please, it's the pressure of the moment, not an oversight.

The rest of this year and next, I will be doing a number of things: confirmation classes, worship and preaching, work with the finance committee, and anything else John needs from me. I am not at all unwilling to surrender the administrative tasks to him.

Let me take this opportunity to thank each one of you for the opportunity to serve as your appointed Pastor. It has been both a fulfilling, yet humbling experience. I continue to hold you all in my heart and leave you with this reminder: Christians can never really say goodbye for they are always present to one another in the Lord's Supper!

With grateful blessings,

Rev. Gail Lewis

CARING CORNER

Things are starting to wind down here at WUMC. Everyone is looking forward to the summer months: going swimming, playing golf, going to the cottage, working in the garden, enjoying the sunshine and warm weather and going on vacation. I love the summer because I get to see my neighbors. During the winter no one is out and about.

The Elderteens will be having their picnic on June 9, 2008 and we will be entertained by "Senior Moments", so please put this on your calendars and come for fun, fellowship and good eats. I will be looking into new programs for September, so if there is something you are interested in please let me know.

On May 10, 2008 we held our first Caregiver retreat and I must say, I really enjoyed it. We discussed such subjects as *Caregiver's Bill of Rights*, *What Can I Do for Myself*, *The Emotional Dynamics of Care Giving* and *The Physical Aspects of Care Giving*. We were fortunate to have Joan Clark doing hand massages, Shelley Kayne leading in the health aspects of care giving as well as doing a blood pressure clinic and Dr. Carol Descutner was our speaker for psychological effects of care giving and we had a resource table. A light lunch followed our morning of discussions. If you are a care giver and would like some of the information that was handed out, please come and see me.

We will be planning another care giver day and as soon as we have a date we will let you know.

The Flu Shot Clinic is on the calendar for October 9, 2008 so put that on your calendar also!

Now back to summer fun. I hope to get out on the golf course this year so if you see me.... **DUCK!!!!** I NEED A LOT OF PRACTICE! The Nurture and Member Care team wishes everyone a safe, and happy summer.

Blessings and Peace,

*Barbara Saltarella and
the Nurture and Member Care Team*



DISTRICT NEWS

A Celebration For Retiring Pastors

An evening of celebration is planned for those WNY Conference pastors retiring this year, including our own **Rev. Gail Lewis**. The banquet will be held on June 11, 2008, at Samuel's Grande Manor.



Our own Rev. Gail Lewis celebrating retirement.

Bishop Fisher's Office Announces Appointments

Bishop Violet Fisher has announced the following appointments:

Rev. John Wetherwax from ¼ time to ½ time at Williamsville UMC, effective 7/1/08.

Rev. Christopher Wylie to Alden UMC, effective 1/1/08.

Older Adult Ministry Conference Planned

Most everyone is aware that our population is aging. The first of the baby boomer generation started turning 60 two years ago. Consider this startling statistic: a baby boomer will turn 60 every 7 seconds for nearly the next 20 years. This reality presents a number of issues for our church and conference. For instance, how can we address the diverse needs of this growing segment of our congregations? How can we prepare our older members and their families for dealing with end of life issues? How can we capitalize on the wisdom and faith of our older members?

These issues and others will be addressed at the Older Adult Ministry Conference to be held on October 4, 2008 at the Rush United Methodist Church. The key note topic for the conference will be Healing, Hope and Humor.



Rev. Gail Lewis, Lois White and Rev. John Wetherwax

District News is compiled and submitted by Pete Powers.



Stewart Watson, Jeanne Mowery, Lori Pacer and Wendy Amuso

STEWARDSHIP

Going Green: Six Things Churches Can Do to Help the Environment¹ Part 1

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."
Genesis 2:15 (NIV)

As stewards of the earth, Christians have a level of responsibility to God to look after the earth and its creatures. As our church strives to become better stewards of our earth and its natural resources, there are several things to keep in mind as we support WUMC efforts to "Go Green." In this first of two articles on this subject, we will look at three of the six things churches can do to help the environment.

1. Conserve Energy

About 80 percent of all pollutant emissions, discharges, and other releases can be linked to energy consumption. Even a small reduction in energy consumption help improve air quality, as well as conserve energy resources for future generations. Here are some helpful tips that can significantly reduce our church's energy consumption.

- When buying new equipment and appliances, make sure it is EnergyStar compliant, which reduces energy consumption for that appliance by at least 25 percent.
- Replace halogen floor lamps with fluorescent models to reduce energy consumption by about 75 percent.
- Replace incandescent lamps with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) to reduce energy consumption for lighting by 50 percent or more.
- Upgrade any incandescent exit signs to use LED lamps to reduce energy consumption for exit signs by about 80 percent.
- Replace older thermostats with electronic programmable thermostats.

2. Develop Recycling Programs

Most of us realize we can recycle aluminum cans, newspapers, glass containers, and plastic bottles. By making recycling convenient at church, you can reduce the volume of waste that must be placed in a landfill and teach the recycling ethic. In addition, to the "normal" list of items to recycle, the following items can also be recycled:

- Recycle printer cartridges at either private collection programs or vendor sponsored programs.
- Green waste such as lawn clippings can be recycled by setting up a compost bin.
- Office paper can usually be recycled if properly segregated.
- Provide containers to recycle items such as aluminum cans, etc. Have separate containers for items that have value such as "redemption value" cans and bottles.

Stewardship Continued on page 5



**REMEMBER... YOU CAN RECYCLE YOUR
PAPER RIGHT HERE AT WUMC!!!!!!**

Stewardship Continued from page 4

3. Buy Recycled and Recyclable Products

Recycling is of no use if we do not buy recycled products. When purchasing supplies, make a point of looking for and buying recycled products such as:

- Office paper and binders
- Napkins
- Printer cartridges
- Paper towel rolls
- Bathroom tissue

Submitted by Sondra Scott

1 This article was extracted from the article titled "Seven Things Every Church Can Do for the Environment", posted on the United Methodist Church Cal-Pac Conference Web site, December 2007, http://www.cal-pac.org/con_Ministries_Environment.cfm?c=1000194&v=3.

School of Christian Mission

The 2008 Western New York Cooperative School of Christian Mission will be held **July 24-26 at Daemen College in Amherst, NY**. This event is co-sponsored by the WNY Board of Global Missions and the WNY Conference United Methodist Women. Adult and Camp Wesleyan (teen) Sessions are included in the School.

The program this year features a study of "Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival." This study will be led by Rev. Dr. Thom White Wolf Fassett and Kae Woodruff Wilbert from Albion. Dr. Fassett wrote the mission study book, which discusses the rights and needs of the first people of the United States in their ongoing struggle for survival. Kae Woodruff Wilbert is a Cherokee descendent and a member of the Cherokee Indigenous Peoples Alliance of Rochester.

Alternatively, participants can choose to attend a study of the history and struggles of "Israel and Palestine," which is being repeated from last year. In addition, all adult participants will take the Spiritual Growth Class, "I Believe in Jesus."

The School begins on Thursday morning and continues through worship on Saturday afternoon. The cost for attending as a commuter is \$110 which includes registration and most meals. The cost to stay in the beautiful Daemen College dorms and receive all meals is \$185.

**PLEASE SUPPORT
OUR ANNUAL
CHICKEN BBQ ON
SATURDAY,
JUNE 7th!!!!**

**WE THANK ALL OF
OUR VOLUNTEERS,
THERE IS STILL
TIME TO SIGN UP!!!**



Also, a one-day overview is offered on Saturday, July 26th, for \$35 for those who cannot attend all three days.

The deadline for registration and fees is Monday, June 30th. A registration form and detailed information about this year's School of Christian Mission programs is included in the April issue of the "Spectrum," which can be found in the church narthex. We hope you will consider attending the School of Christian Mission. If you would like to attend or have questions about the registration process, please call Carol Forden.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

END OF YEAR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CELEBRATION

It's time to celebrate another amazing year together! To all who either served on the Christian Education team or helped teach this year we invite you to join us on June 2nd at 6:00pm for a picnic at Cheri Pascoe's. Please bring a chair and a dish to pass. Christian Education will supply the rest. RSVP to Judy Toone at 634-4800.



KINGDOM BOUND (YOUTH IN HIGH SCHOOL THIS FALL THROUGH COLLEGE AGE)

We still have some openings for the youth to join us August 3 – 6th at Darien Lake for 4 days and 4 nights of concerts, worship and rides at Kingdom Bound '08! We're renting 2 RV's (one for guys, one for girls). Each camper sleeps 6 although we can set up a tent or two if we need to. Each RV is equipped with a shower, stove, fridge and most importantly air conditioning! The cost is \$250 which includes the all event wristband to get into the park and concerts, breakfast and dinner every day (lunch can either be purchased in the park at your own expense or make a sandwich back at camp), and of course the opportunity to spend four glorious days with your fabulous youth leaders along with thousands of other Christian youth! Deposits of \$100 to reserve your spot are due ASAP to Judy Toone. Check out the Kingdom Bound website at www.kingdombound.org to check out the bands and speakers coming! Any questions please call Judy at 634-4800 or Wes.

RECOGNITION OF TEACHERS

Please join us Sunday, June 8th at 10:00am as we recognize the contributions made to our Christian Education ministry. We will be presenting each teacher as well as those serving on our Education Team with a small gift of appreciation. If for some reason you're not able to come, please let Judy Toone know in advance. Without the following people we would not be able to provide the variety of high quality programs we have available for our children, youth and adults.

Please join us in thanking the following members of our team: **Kathy Ciccone, Amanda Dickerman, Megan Beck, Wendy Fortune, Andrea Reinhart, Sarah Hein, Cheri Pascoe, Carol Descutner, Debbie Hein, Lori Ann Brown, Sheila Ransbottom, Toni Clancy, Glenn Speller, Greta Speller, Marie Lorwa, Jamie Knapp, Amy Roberts, Debbie Mott-Lundgren, Carol Forden, Allison Lyttle, Pam Curcio, Kaitlin Curcio, Bruce Wattle, Kathy Meyer, Gary Jones, Annette Jones, Tony DelGobbo, Shirley Davidson, Sara Wishman, Tom Wishman, Debbie Emerson, Mark Emerson, Neil Kratzer, Wes Shute, Barbara Manhardt, Cheryl Thomas, Dick Davidson, Tammy Wise, Cindy Steimer, Nancy Howlett, Kim Weingartner and Barbara Salterella, along with Pastor Gail, Rev. John and Pastor Daryl!** If there's someone we forgot, please let us know so we can update our list!

MORE CHRISTIAN ED...



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our graduating seniors:
**Matthew Aloisio, Chris Buchner, Kaitlin Curcio,
 Blake Dougherty, Matt Ehmann, Jessica Gordon,
 Jeremy Jones, Allison Lyttle, Valerie Miller,
 Christine Robertson, Peter Wise and
 Michelle Wolf!!!**

Join us Sunday, June 22nd at 10:00am as we send our seniors off with a gift and a blessing!

Christian Ed is still looking for donations of “newer” used computers ... please let us know if you have any resources!

CELEBRATE CHILDREN

Our children here at Williamsville UMC are making huge differences in their schools and their communities whether through academics, music, sports and volunteer work as well as extra involvement within our church community. The Christian Education Team would love to highlight those special things happening with our children here each month in our *Messenger*. Please contact Judy Toone at 634-4800 or jtoone@williamsvilleumc.org to share the gifts and talents, joys and special achievements of your child/children.

CALLING ALL SURFERS!...WE'RE HAVING A BEACH PARTY!

Join us this year July 14th – 18th as we surf through the scriptures at our beach party vacation bible school! We are so excited to once again be hosting this fabulous event for children up to and including 6th grade. We'll be learning all about our Beach Be-Attitudes: Be Obedient, Be Kind, Be Forgiving, Be Bold and Believe! We will once again be offering a free-will offering dinner available at our “Snack Shack” at 6:00pm with the Beach Party running from 6:30 – 8:30pm. Look for our registration table to be open in the Narthex after both services May 4th.

WANTED!!! We are looking for the following items to use for our Vacation Bible School:

Hula hoops, bean bags, traffic cones, flippers (fins), marbles, kiddie pools (blow up or solid), inner tubes, tikki torches, boogie boards, surf boards, porch/beach umbrellas with bases

If you have any of the above items you would be willing to let us borrow for VBS please contact Judy at 634-4800.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VBS

We are the host church this year for VBS so we need all the helpers we can get! If you are interested in helping in any of the following areas please contact Judy at 634-4800.

Small group leaders: Preschoolers (ages 3 and 4), Kindergarteners, 3rd graders on up
Snack Shack Cookers and Servers, Rockin' Recreation Leaders, Beachcomber Craft Leaders, Assistant Lifeguards (Youth helpers) and Decorators (those who are clever enough to turn Fillmore Hall into a beach party!

UPCOMING DATES

Monday, June 2nd – Christian Education Team and Teacher picnic 6:00pm at Cheri Pascoe's.

Sunday, June 8th – Recognition of teachers at 10:00am service.

Monday, June 16th – Christian Ed meeting:
 6:30 – 7:30 planning for K through 4th,
 7:30 – 8:30 planning for 5th through 12th

Sunday, June 22nd – Recognition of our graduating seniors at 10:00am service.

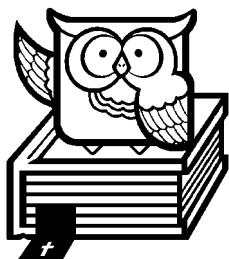
July 14th- 18th – Beach Party Vacation Bible School

August 3rd – 6th – Kingdom Bound (Senior High and College).

CHRISTIAN ED MEETING

Our last Christian Education meeting before we take off for the summer will be held Monday, June 16th. We are already planning next year...taking a look at different curriculums...planning topics...mapping out next year's calendar. From 6:30 – 7:30 we'll be doing planning for our Kindergarten through 4th grades. Planning for our 5th through 12th grades will follow from 7:30 – 8:30.

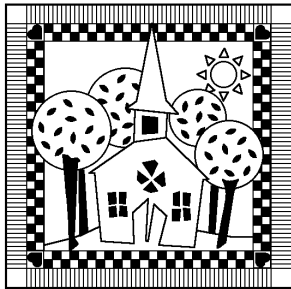
All are welcome to attend!



The Book Club will meet on Friday, June 27th at 7:30 PM at the home of Betty Peck. We will discuss **"The Reluctant Fundamentalist"** by Mohsin Hamid. This timely novel addresses issues of a Pakistani Muslim immigrant following the 9/11 attacks on NYC.

The annual book selection **picnic** will be held on Friday, August 15th at 6:00 PM at the home of Carol and Roger Forden. Bring a dish to share and your suggestions for our reading selections for 2008-9, which will start our sixth year of reading. We are always happy to have new members, so please join us at the picnic or at future discussions. For more information, contact Ann Killian.

CHURCH FAMILY



PICNIC

FAMILY PICNIC: JUNE 8

(Yes, It's the day after the Chicken BBQ!!)

All members and friends of our church family are invited to a Family Reunion Picnic immediately following the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, June 8.

Hot dogs, BBQ pork, a snow cone machine, a bounce house, face painting, a juggler, balloon animals and musical entertainment will all be part of the day. Be sure to sign-up in the narthex to bring a dish to pass. Don't miss this outstanding opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new friends!

If you are able to help with set-up or clean-up please call Donna Seiler or Mary Ann Horey at 634-4800.



*FATHER'S DAY is
SUNDAY, JUNE
15th.*

*HAPPY FATHER'S
DAY TO ALL OF
OUR WUMC
DADS!!!*

Our Staff and Lay Leaders Are Here to Help You

Lead Pastor: Gail Lewis
 Associate Pastor: Daryl Bennett
 Associate for Pastoral Counseling: John Wetherwax
 Directors of Music: Judith Stafford and Wendy Amuso
 Director of Christian Education: Judith Toone
 Pastoral Assistant for Visitation: Barbara Salterella
 Church Administration: Denise Barham
 Financial Secretary: Debbie Parise
 Custodian: Mary Ann Horey
 Custodial Assistant: Cheryl Thomas
 Sunday Nursery Care: Kathleen Ciccone,
 Amanda Dickerman and Megan Beck
 Coordinating Lay Leader: Gary Jones
 Communication Ministry: Sondra Scott & Marie Lorwa
 Member Care Ministry: Barbara Saltarella
 Outreach & Missions Ministry: Kevin Lyttle
 Relational Ministries: Donna Seiler
 Worship Ministries: Cheryl Thomas
 Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Chair: Jack Killian
 Trustee Chair: Ed Howard
 Stewardship & Finance Chair: Rosemary Elliott
 Treasurer: Dave Reichard
 Newsletter Editor: Kelly Beckwith