



Loved by God,  
Led by Grace

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

WILLIAMSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
*The Methodist Messenger*

# YOU'VE GOT THE TIME

This Lent we challenge you  
**to listen to God's Word**  
28 minutes a day for 40 days

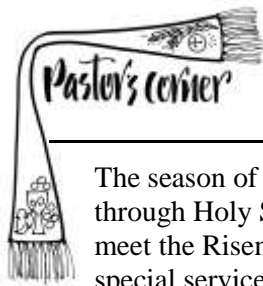
## Anyone can take the time....

How many of you watch at least 28 minutes of TV a day?  
How many of you drive or commute 28 minutes or more a day?  
How many of you listen to music while getting ready for work?

How many of you have an MP3 player, an iPod or a computer?  
The #1 most requested gift for Christmas in 2005 was an iPod.  
The #1 most requested option on new cars today is an MP3  
Compatible CD player.  
One can be purchased at any local discount store or on the  
Internet.  
85% of Adults in America have a computer.

We challenge you to listen through the entire  
New Testament in the coming 40 days of Lent.

Faith Comes By Hearing®



# 40 DAY LISTENING PLAN

The season of Lent begins on February 21, Ash Wednesday and continues through Holy Saturday, April 7. During this time we are preparing ourselves to meet the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday. As pastors, each year we try to plan special services, activities and music around a specific theme that will help our congregation experience the Lenten season in a way that enhances individual and congregational spiritual growth.

This year we are taking all of you with us on **A Journey in Jerusalem**. Sunday Sermons will focus on the **Seven Last Words of Christ** from the cross with the first word spoken at the Ash Wednesday service on February 21. The Sunday morning Contemporary Issues class will dedicate the four Sundays in March to **exploring Israel** through video, scripture and the personal reflections of those in our congregation who have actually walked on those historic lands. A brand new Bible study will be held Monday, March 12, 19 and 26 at both 11 AM and 7 PM each day. The study, called **“Where Do I Begin?”** is for those folks who have found the language, names and structure of the Bible to be daunting. It will give you an introduction to Bible basics and help you start reading with more confidence.

For those of you who aren't into reading, we are supplying free of charge an audio **version of the New Testament**, professionally arranged by Hosanna Ministries, to each household in our church. I have used these recordings myself for many years and find that the Bible really comes alive when listening to them as over a hundred voices have gone into their making. **A children's version for ages four to six grade will be supplied for each child during the Sunday morning Christian Education Time.**

Last, but not least, we will continue with our Wednesday night Souper Suppers and program beginning on February 28. On **MAUNDY THURSDAY** we will have a special meal/program called **The Milk and Honey Cooking School** which promises to be quite a production and which will conclude with Holy Communion. You won't want to miss this one but you will need a reservation, so watch for the display in the narthex!

My hope is that, in addition to your own private devotions during Lent, you will also try to attend one or more of these opportunities for spiritual growth and Christian fellowship. Remembering the journey to Jerusalem that Jesus made for us, resulting in his death on a cross, I'm sure we can find a little extra time to learn more about that journey and how it still affects our lives today.

Blessings - *Gail*

DAY	SCRIPTURE
1	Matt. 1-7
2	Matt. 8-12
3	Matt. 13-18
4	Matt. 19-24
5	Matt 25-28
6	Mark 1-6
7	Mark 7-11
8	Mark 12-16
9	Luke 1-4
10	Luke 5-9
11	Luke 10-13
12	Luke 14-19
13	Luke 20-24
14	John 1-5
15	John 6-9
16	John 10-14
17	John 15-19
18	John 20 to Acts 4
19	Acts 5-9
20	Acts 10-15
21	Acts 16-20
22	Acts 21-26
23	Acts 27 to Rom. 4
24	Rom. 5-10
25	Rom. 11 to 1 Cor. 1
26	1 Cor. 2-9
27	1 Cor. 10-15
28	1 Cor. 16 to 11 Cor. 9
29	11 Cor. 10 to Gal. 4
30	Gal. 5 to Phil. 1
31	Phil. 2 to 1 Thes. 2
32	1 Thes. 3 to 1 Tim. 5
33	1 Tim. 6 to Heb. 1
34	Heb. 2-10
35	Heb. 11 to James 5
36	1 Pet. 1 to 1 John 1
37	1 John 2 to Jude
38	Rev. 1-7
39	Rev. 8-15
40	Rev. 16-22

## SERMON SERIES: SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST



Ash Wednesday, February 21	Mark 15:25-34	First Word: <i>Why Me?</i>
Sunday, February 25	Luke 23:26-34a	Second Word: <i>Law &amp; Order</i>
Sunday, March 4	Luke 23:35-43	Third Word: <i>Man in the Middle</i>
Sunday, March 11	Luke 23:44-46	Fourth Word: <i>Unconditional Trust</i>
Sunday, March 18	John 19:23-27	Fifth Word: <i>Extended Family</i>
Sunday, March 25	John 19:28	Sixth Word: <i>Unquenchable Thirst</i>
Palm Sunday, April 1	John 19:29-30	Seventh Word: <i>Said &amp; Done</i>
Easter Sunday, April 8	John 20:1-18	Final Word: <i>The Unnatural Truth</i>

## Free Bibles-on-Disk Given as Lenten Challenge

Forty days. Twenty-eight minutes a day. What kind of impact would the ability to listen to the Bible have on your life? Would it challenge you to live each day as Christ taught us to? Would it become a source of peace during troubled times?

If you are intrigued by this, we invite you to start listening to the copy of "You've Got Time: 40 day plan for listening to the New Testament" which has been enclosed with this newsletter. This CD, from Faith Comes By Hearing, is in MP3 compatible format. A children's Bible will be given to youth in Christian Education classes.

Faith Comes By Hearing (or FCBM) is a Scripture listening program that has been proven effective in reaching the world's poor and illiterate with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. With help from people in congregations such as ours, they provide Audio New Testaments to villages and churches around the world.

### Faith Comes By Hearing

Faith Comes By Hearing and The American Bible Society have joined together to record and distribute Audio New Testaments to 97% of the world's speakers by the year 2016. There are 6,809 language groups in the world and only 1,580 of these languages have a New Testament translation available. Further, over 50% of the world's population lives in poverty and cannot read.

Our church has the opportunity to sponsor the recording of a New Testament translation for a group of people called the Kuranko, who live in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone, a small coastal state about the size of South Carolina in Western Africa, home to over 6 million people. Since May 2002, the government has been working to re-establish its authority amidst a destroyed infrastructure and appalling poverty. One resource states that the country is probably the poorest and most

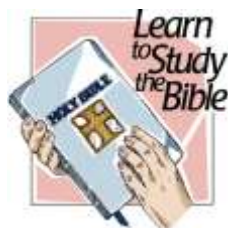
desperate country on earth.

The Kuranko are a people who work primarily as subsistence farmers. Christian groups have been working among the Kuranko using a holistic approach that helps with everything from food distribution to health education to medical clinics and evangelical outreach. Story telling is a part of every service and reflects the very low literacy rate and the oral nature of the culture.

The Bible Society of Sierra Leone recognizes the need for the Audio Dramatized New Testament for the Kuranko people group and has requested the recording. The Ghana Recording Center team can record it this year, if funding becomes available. The cost of this project is about \$26,000. On March 4 we will support this effort by taking a special offering during both worship services. For more information on how to support the FCHB and the Kuranko, go to [www.fcbh.org](http://www.fcbh.org).

### INTRODUCTORY BIBLE CLASS OFFERED IN MARCH

The "Where Do I Begin" Bible Study class will meet on the following Mondays: March 12, 19 and 26 with your choice of two times each day: 11 AM and 7 PM. The study will be led by the pastors and will focus on the following topics: All are welcome to attend.



- 3/12: Introduction to the Bible
- 3/19: The Old Testament
- 3/26: The New Testament

### NEW MEMBER CLASSES SCHEDULED

If you are interested in formally proclaiming your affiliation with WUMC by becoming a member, please plan on attending a new member class. We will be holding sessions on March 4 and March 11 during the Christian Education time from 9:45 to 10:30 AM in the library (near the coat room). Please mention your interest to a pastor or call the church office 634-4800 to let us know which session you plan on attending. (You only need to come to one.) Members will be formally received during worship on March 25.



### KING'S KIDS WORSHIP FEBRUARY 18

Join us at 9 AM on February 18 for a children's worship featuring familiar bible stories told with the help of our puppet friends, simple, upbeat songs taught during worship (so beginning readers can sing along too) all wrapped in a special half hour format full of joy and love. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

Those interested in being part of the puppet ministry are invited to come to the King's Kids puppet rehearsal on Wednesday, February 14 at 6 PM in the sanctuary. No need to call ahead, just show up!



# 2007 Lenten Programs at WUMC



## IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Join us for a simple soup supper and a Lenten program each Wednesday during Lent. Dinner is at 5:30 with the evening's program to follow at 6:15.

A free will offering will usually be taken to help defray the cost of the program or to support a designated ministry area in our church. Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex each week. Or call the church office (634-4800) by noon on the Monday morning just prior to the Wednesday you're joining us for dinner. If not, you will miss out on great food, great companionship and fabulous Lenten programming.

### February 28

Denise Reichard will present one of her wonderful characterizations. This year she will perform her interpretation of the life and times of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell which will be sure to inspire us all. This program is sponsored by the Worship Team.

### March 7

The Membership Care Team will sponsor Christine Doran & Company (featuring several talented ladies from Bishop Violet Fisher's office, the District Superintendent's office and the Conference Center) who will connect us in music to our Methodist heritage.

### March 14

The Missions & Outreach Team will sponsor a game night at WUMC. Come and be a part of the fun.

### March 21

We're looking forward to a concert by the popular contemporary praise group *CrossWinds*. It will feature live sacred and secular music performed by Steve Metivier, Chris Watson and Fred Hawke. Sponsored by the Communications Team, this promises to be a standing room only event. Sign up early!

### March 28

Don Tomasulo, a talented story-teller, will weave his magical tales while creating amazing origami animals, flowers and birds. Some of which, we'll learn how to make too. Sponsored by the Trustees.

### April 5 Maundy Thursday

We will have a special meal/program called *The Milk and Honey Cooking School*. Sponsored by the Education Team, this promises to be a great production, which will conclude with Holy Communion. Reservations required!

## Methodist Messenger Takes on New Editor

As your new editor for *The Methodist Messenger*, I thought I would take a moment to introduce myself. I am both honored and humbled to take over this role from Michele Grammer, who has done a stellar job of running this operation for the past decade.

Williamsville UMC has become a most significant part of my life. My family moved to Williamsville in 1979 when I was four years old. Under this roof, I have attended Open Door Nursery School and traveled the ranks through Sunday school. I was a member of both the Junior and Senior High youth groups and Girl Scout troop 419. I have sung and rang handbells in choirs from Harriet Herbert to Judy Stafford and Wendy Amuso, pestered many a pastor, forged life-long friendships, got confirmed, married, and had my two

daughters, Erin and Lindsay baptized here. My husband, Dan, and his family have been members here for many years too (in fact, the first time I ever spoke to him I was trying to get him involved in Sr. High Youth Group; though we didn't become acquainted for another year or so.)

When I look at my daughter Erin, who is nearly the same age I was when my family joined WUMC, attending her first year of Sunday school, I become so excited knowing that the legacy of this church is just beginning to blossom in her. You, our church family, will watch and help her and Lindsay (who is 15 months) grow and become women, the same way you have been here with and for me. Just knowing that overwhelms me, and brings all the closer to my heart the

warm spirit of Christ.

Taking on the *Messenger* is going to be a very new challenge for me. I have written articles before, but I have never been responsible for "wrangling" them. Nonetheless, it seems like the right thing to do. I can certainly use your prayers and support as I learn along the way!

One goal I have is to assemble a staff of writers and contributors. Some of the departments I would like to have headed up are: Christian Education, Fellowship and Events, Missions and Outreach, Stewardship and Finance, and Denominational Concerns. There are some new features in the works too, so please contact me if you would like to be part of the Messenger staff. My home phone number is 873-0755 or you can email me at RZeller143@aol.com. I invite each of you to suggest, write and submit anything you think might be good for our newsletter.

- Rachel Zeller



### PLEASE SAY HELLO TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS...

#### Shannon and Ira Casterline

Ira, a native of Syracuse is transferring his membership from the west Genesee Methodist Church and Shannon is transferring hers from Sts. Peter and Paul in Williamsville. They were married in WUMC on August 20, 2005 and recently joined our church. Their daughter Cecilia (nick named CC) was born September 20, 2006 and has blessed their lives and is a very good baby. Mother not only nurtures little CC, but cares for the greenery in the biology department at Buffalo State where she does experiments on various plants. When time allows she enjoys gardening, jewelry designing, cooking and hiking. Ira, a painter and carpenter, works for the McGuire Group. He, too, likes hiking, running and fishing.

Be sure to give Ira and Shannon a big welcome when you see them.

## A Word About Stewardship

Stewardship is a response to God's love in the way we care for all the gifts of life. At this time I want to speak specifically about our financial stewardship.

First, I'd like to take those persons who stepped forward at the end of 2006 with special gifts that made it possible for us to pay all of our responsibilities.

Second, I'd like to thank those who have pledged toward this year's budget. The budget, which was passed on January 7, showed a deficit of approximately \$1,500. Since that time some of you have expressed concern and disappointment that we did not meet the projected expenses, even though there was an increase in giving. It is the perception that our cup is a little empty.

I would prefer to think of the cup as almost full to the brim. **With a total budget of almost \$400,000, the deficit is less than ½ of .01% !!** This now gives us the opportunity to review our projections, tighten our belts and to explore other creative ways to resource our ministries. The Stewardship and Finance Team will be meeting again this month and we welcome any and all suggestions for ways to approach this challenge with a positive attitude! God has promised to supply all our needs and has never let us down before. I believe God's grace will see us through – but not without effort on our parts.

So, the first thing I am asking you to do is pray: for the Stewardship team, the staff, and the individuals in our congregation (don't forget yourself!). Pray for God's guidance and spiritual renewal of each heart and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to renew our commitment to ministry. Pray each day. It **will** make a difference! I expect that we will call another Church Conference in the near future to amend and present a balanced budget.

In Christ's Service,  
Rev. Gail Lewis



### BOXED SETS OF GIVING ENVELOPES for 2007

were prepared in December. By now you should have either picked up your envelopes or received them in the mail. If did not receive a set and would like one, please call the office 634-4800 and ask to have a box prepared for you OR you can use the clipboard on the counter in the church office to request envelopes.



## THE WORK OF A GENEROUS GIVER<sup>1</sup>

By Gordon MacDonald

*“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good” (Genesis 1:31)*

Who appraised God's work of creation? God did. God was his own boss. His stamp of approval and quality is found in the word “good.” Whether we are aware of it or not, the work we do is also an expression of our character.

In a sense, each dimension of life involves a kind of work and, consequently, an expression of character. The work we do to maintain key relationships, take care of our homes, balance our personal accounts, and pay our bills reflects something about who we are. Likewise, when we contribute our time and abilities to our churches or communities, we are “at work,” pressing the quality of our character into some dimension of reality.

Financial contributions of a generous giver are another kind of work – work of the divine sort. Generous givers listen to God's voice with a joyful spirit, and they seek wisdom concerning how and when to give.

However, the work of a generous giver goes far beyond writing a check. It involves lending our support to an endeavor through active involvement, prayer, or donating time or expertise. Giving generously of ourselves to family, friends, our churches, and communities is often when we experience life's greatest rewards. For it is then that we can sit back, delight in what has been accomplished, and recognize, as God did, that “this is good.”

This article has been excerpted from MacDonald, Gordon. “The Work of a Generous Giver,” <http://www.GenerousGiving.org>, Daily Reflection. January 19, 2007.

## Member Care Team Applies For Stephen Ministry Grant

Lent is almost upon us and I am reminded about Jesus and all that he did in his brief ministry here on earth. This is a time when we need to focus on continuing doing Jesus' ministry. Jesus healed not only the broken body but also those who felt broken spiritually.

Luke 4:16-19 talks about Jesus in the temple in Nazareth and reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah "The Sovereign Lord has filled me with his spirit. He has chosen me and sent me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people." And so, like Jesus, our mission today is the same as Jesus' mission. One way our church can fulfill this mission is to begin a Stephen Ministry through the Stephen Series.

What is the Stephen Series?

The Stephen Series is a complete system for training and organizing lay persons to provide one-to-one Christian care in and around the congregation.

As I said before, our mission today is the same as Jesus' mission. By the power of his spirit, Christ lives in us and works through us, so that we can do the same kinds of things Jesus did during his earthly ministry. By the power of God's Spirit at work we can:

1. proclaim the Good News of God's love and acceptance:
2. bind up those who are brokenhearted
3. comfort those who mourn



We accomplish Jesus' mission by caring for people – especially when they are suffering, broken-hearted, and grieving. Demonstrating God's love and care to people whom are hurting during their time of need is a powerful way to bear witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Member Care team has applied for a \$2,500 grant from the "Older Adult Ministry of the United Methodist Church" and if we awarded to us, it can be used in starting a Stephen Ministry. Here is a brief run down on what it will cost us to start a Stephen Ministry and why receiving this grant is so crucial:

A one-time Congregation Enrollment Fee	\$1,675
Leadership Training for two people (2 x \$997)	\$1,994
Two Leader's manuals and resources	<u>\$ 334</u> \$4,003

Over the next month, we will be starting a group called "Christian Caregiving - A Way of Life." This book provides an inside look at the underlying theology and principles of Stephen Ministry and is an adult education course on distinctively Christian caring. More details will be provided in our weekly bulletin. Grace and Peace be with everyone.

*Barbara Salterella*

**Did you know that we video tape the 11 AM worship each Sunday morning?** Sometimes we bring the tapes to our home bound members to help them feel a bit more connected or we loan them to friends wanting to hear a particular sermon or music selection. We know that some of you will agree that this is a valuable ministry and would like to help us continue it. We're looking for donations of blank VHS tapes. If you would like to help, please bring the tapes to the church office.



### Erie County offers LONG-TERM Insurance Resource Center for Seniors

About 44% of Americans over the age of 65 will enter a nursing home at least once in their lifetime, and more than half of them will stay for at least a year. With costs of nursing home care often exceeding \$90,000 per year and in-home care costing as much as \$20 an hour, you might find that you have questions about managing the costs of long-term care, and what coverage Medicare offers for those who are in need of such care.

The Erie County Department of Senior Services has recently launched the Insurance Resource Center. A staff of highly trained employees is now offering free workshops to any group who would like to learn about these important topics, as well as individual counseling on these issues to those who request it. There are no sales involved – this is a free public education service for those looking for the most up to date information so people can make decisions best suited to their own situations.

For anyone interested in participating in a workshop at WUMC, please contact Barbara Salterella at the church office, 634-4800. To arrange individual counseling, please contact Bill Daniels of the Insurance Resource center at 858-7883.



## Donated Toys Brought to Harvest House

On Monday, January 29 I took a load of toys to Harvest House. This load included toys that had previously been given to Asbury Shalom Zone, but had not sold in the Christmas Store. We know from experience that toys do not sell well during the year in the regular store, so the extra toys had been put into storage for next year. Rather than leave the toys unused for an extended period I asked for advice from the Niagara

Frontier City Ministry Board members and was given two suggestions for groups that could use toys. I chose Harvest House because it was closer, called about making donations and was given a time range for delivery.

Harvest House has a special mission for babies and toddlers. Members of our congregation had left toys for ASZ over the past couple of weeks, and a group of helpers loaded them in my car after church on Sunday. While I was volunteering at ASZ on Monday I talked to Luis, the ASZ manager, who agreed that it would be good to send the unsold toys

to Harvest House, so I ended up with a fully loaded car.

The people at Harvest House were happy to see me as they can really use the toys. They also particularly wanted used car seats to give to needy young families, as well as used baby furniture. If any member has these items to donate I would be happy to deliver car seats, but my Golf is too small for much furniture. The address is 1782 Seneca Street. It is just East of Bailey Avenue and the river.

- Rosemary Elliott

### WHAT'S NEW AT ASZ?

Asbury Shalom Zone is full of activity this year. ASZ is now providing many ministries to those in need in our area including: BOCES classes for Computer and English as a Second Language, a thrift store, a baling operation to bale clothing going to third world countries, an African church (Ministry of Hope) with worship in French, Spanish and English, a Latino church, a refugee resettlement agency called Journey's End which stores furniture, after-school piano lessons for children, and a Cub Scout troop.

Additionally, there are now two independent businesses renting space, as well as Hispanics United of Buffalo, which rents space to park their vans indoors. Two organizations are also using ASZ space for their meetings.

ASZ is always looking for help and support from groups and individuals to do secretarial work and repair work, as well as many other tasks. Donations of time and funds are always welcome. For more information on what you can do to contribute to the good work of ASZ, contact Merle Showers at 832-3233.

### 2007 UM SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Information on this year's United Methodist scholarships can be found on the WNY Conference Website at: [www.wnyumc.org](http://www.wnyumc.org)

### UPGRADES NEEDED

If you got a new computer for Christmas, we might be able to use your old one. The staff computers are getting closer to obsolescence every day. Several of them have been cobbled together from donated computers and parts. They were fine when the Operating System was Windows 95. However, it's becoming frustratingly obvious that slow processors, tiny hard drives and minimal memory just isn't enough power for our hardworking staff. We are looking for the equivalent of Pentium 4 computers running Windows XP Pro with 20 gig or bigger hard drives. If you think you may be able to help us out, please contact Michele Grammer 634-4800 in the church office. Thank you.



### WE'RE STARTING A YOUTH BAND

If you have a drum set you can donate to the church, please let Judy Toone know by leaving a message in her box in the church office or by calling 634-4800 and leaving a message.

### GET YOUR COPY OF THE SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS VIA EMAIL

Get the latest updates of the WUMC calendar and events. Even if you have to miss worship you can still get updates. An email version of the *Sunday Messenger* and calendar is available. If you would like to receive it, please send your email address to; [Michele@williamsvilleumc.org](mailto:Michele@williamsvilleumc.org).

## Methodists in Fellowship

### RACHAEL CIRCLE

The Rachael Circle will meet on February 15 at 12:00 at the church. Special guest speaker Barbara Weaver will talk about "Children of the Bible". Please bring a sandwich. For any questions, call either Elka Wood, 689-8947 or Betty Peck, 631-3414.

### DORCAS CIRCLE

The Dorcas Circle will meet at 10:30 AM on Thursday, February 8 in the parlor to assemble the grooming items for Haven House. Remember your sandwich. If you have questions, please call Donna Swift at 633-5407.

### CALLING ALL CUPIDS

We will be having a Valentine's Day event in Fillmore Hall on February 11 for the 9:45 AM Christian Education time. The children will make cookies and Valentine crafts for senior citizens. We are looking for some parents to help frost cookies and maybe donate some punch or un-frosted heart cookies. If you can help, please contact Donna Seiler at 517-0257 or call the church office at 634-4800. Thanks!



### COME TO OUR MOVIE NIGHT

Children ages three through sixth grade and their families are invited to join us for our "Family Movie Night" Friday, March 2 from 6:30 – 7:45 PM in the church parlor. We are asking a parent (or other adult) to come and stay with their children. Bring some blankets, a pillow, wear your p.j.'s, snuggle up with your families and enjoy some special movies. Since snacks will be provided we are asking parents to RSVP at 634-4800 and leave a message for Judy Toone by Wednesday, February 28. See you at the movies!



### WUMC'S 2007 WOMEN'S RETREAT: STORMS IN OUR LIVES

Women of all ages and stages of life are invited to attend WUMC's 2007 Women's Retreat on March 9 and 10 as Rev. Gail Lewis helps us consider the "Storms in Our Lives". We'll gather at the Center for Renewal in Stella Niagara for 24 hours of worship, contemplation and conversation. The \$58 fee includes a private bedroom for each woman, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, use of the indoor pool on Saturday afternoon, craft supplies and coffee/teas service throughout the retreat. Checks should be made payable to WUMC and mailed to Sondra Scott (403 Voorhees Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14216).

This special time together provides not only a time for spiritual renewal, but also the opportunity to make new friends and strengthen old friendships. Please sign-up today on the poster located in the church narthex. Reservations must be made by Monday, February 19. If you have questions, please call either Sondra Scott (832-5008) or Jo Ann Webber (689-8598).



### WE'RE GOING ON A CRUISE!

Our topnotch Music Directors, Judy Stafford and Wendy Amuso, are in their 20th year of service to WUMC and we're going to celebrate them and the tremendous talent they've brought to our church by going on a cruise together!

We've chartered the Miss Buffalo II to sail around the Buffalo harbor on Sunday, June 3. The boat will depart at 1 PM (giving us plenty of time to get downtown after the 10 AM service) for an afternoon of joy and celebration. A buffet dinner with wine and beer will be served on board and musicians from Rocky Amuso's jazz band will provide musical entertainment. We are really looking forward to a wonderful day and hope you will join us.

You can reserve your spot by calling the church office 634-4800, stopping by the office to sign-up, or noting your desire on the attendance sheet in your pew. The cruise, brunch and entertainment will cost \$40 per person. Payment is requested by February 15. Checks should be made out to WUMC with Miss Buffalo on the memo line. There is a limit on how many people can be on the boat, so make your reservation today.

## BAPTISMS IN OUR CHURCH

On January 14 Bridgette and Scott Cassety brought their three children – Louis, Franklin and CC – for baptism at the early worship. Grandparents Mary Ann and Bryce Clark and Shirley Cassety were on hand for the special day. Meg & Richard Freeman stood as Louis' sponsors. Laura & Randy Otander stood as Franklin's sponsors and Annette & Norm Gill and Annette Maddox stood as CC's sponsors.

## NOTES OF THANKS

The Dorcas Circle wishes to thank the anonymous Christmas angel who treated us to lunch at the Eagle House in December. It was such a nice surprise!! Thank you.

We deeply appreciate the expressions of your love and concern for us in connection with the recent accident on the Interstate 90.

- Mel, Edna and Family

Just a little note for a big thank you to the wonderful people who were kind enough to provide me with meals when I broke my wrist. They were so appreciated. We have a wonderful congregation and I am so proud to be one of them.

- Rosemary Koeppel

Dear Williamsville Congregation:

We can not thank you enough for what you have done for our church. The dinners and gift cards, and "borrowing" your youth are all greatly appreciated. It is the help of wonderful people like you that allows us to continue our ministry.

- The Seneca Street UMC

The Ring Masters wish to thank WUMC for its support during our concert season. A special thank you goes out to Judy Stafford, Wendy Amuso and Marie Grieser for the wonderful reception after our December 10 concert.

## PRAYER REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

We are pleased to report that Barbara Swansfeger has been released from the hospital. She is now residing at Wesley Rehab. Cards, notes, visits and phone calls are all welcome. Here's Barbara's info: Mrs. Barbara Swansfeger, Wesley Rehabilitation Center Room 438, 2235 Millersport Highway, Getzville NY 14068  
Phone: 504-1020.

Former WUMC Associate Pastor Peter del Nagro's father Angelo died January 3. His extensive obituary is posted near Peter's photograph on the wall in the parlor (behind where coffee is served.) Those wishing to send their condolences are invited to send cards and notes to Rev. Peter del Nagro at 2103 Greenview Drive, Atchison KS 66002.

Prayers for strength, healing and comfort are requested for Rev. Linda Heffley and her husband as they cope with serious medical issues.

Also, for Lori and Bill Pacer and their extended family in their sorrow upon the death of Bill's father Henry. Cards may be sent to Bill & Lori at 29 Sunbury Court, Williamsville NY 14221.

Our sympathy is with Paul Schlossman and his family on the loss of his mother Sally who died January 27. Cards may be sent to Paul at 177 Denrose Drive, West Amherst NY 14228. Paul has graced our chancel as an oboe soloist several times.

Your prayers of support are asked for Andre, Jo Ann & Rebecca and for Jim and Sharon Burdick in their grief at the sudden death of their daughter Julie.

Others to pray for include Kenny Howlett, Bishop Violet Fisher, Judy Toone, Robert J. Bahn and Dick Jones.

## PRAYER CHAIN

Church family and friends may request special prayers through the Prayer Chain. Please call Bob or Irene Hayman at 688-1258 to place your request.

**If you have a pastoral need, please call the church office (634-4800) and leave a message. You may also call Rev. Lewis at 984-1140 or Pastor Bennett at 984-5483 and talk to them directly.**

The church office hours are Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Our Staff and Lay Leaders Are Here to Help You  
Lead Pastor: Gail Lewis  
Associate Pastor: Daryl Bennett  
Directors of Music: Judith Stafford and Wendy Amuso  
Director of Christian Education: Judith Toone  
Pastoral Assistant for Visitation: Barbara Saltarella  
Church Administrator: Michele Grammer  
Custodian: Mary Ann Horey Housekeeping: Donna Seiler  
Sunday Nursery Care: Kathleen Ciccone,  
Amanda Dickerman and Megan Beck

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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: Wendy Fortune  
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Chair: Jack Killian  
Trustee Chair: John Tschamler  
Stewardship & Finance Chair: Rosemary Elliott  
Treasurer: Lori Pacer  
Newsletter Editor: Rachel Zeller