

MofUs

The newsletter of the Liverpool First United Methodist Church, Liverpool, NY/ February 2011

Enjoy a roast beef dinner Feb. 17

Join us on Feb. 17 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. (or until sold out) for savory roast beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, Italian bread and butter, dessert, and beverages, all served family style. Prices are \$8 for adults and seniors, \$4 for children under 12. Volunteers make these dinners happen. Please sign up to help on the sheets posted in Fellowship Hall. Come have fun, make new friends, eat well, and help the church budget!

Dr. Hall's Lenten Bible Study will be "A Walk Through Love"

Beginning on Tuesday, March 15, at 7 p.m., Dr. Hall will lead a study of the biblical passages that define love as God's gift to all of us. Sessions will go for six consecutive Tuesday evenings, and will take place in Fellowship Hall. They will focus on God's love for us, our love for God, love for others and our love for ourselves, as well as how love will shape our lives in today's world. Study books will be available soon in the church office for \$8 each.

Everyone is welcome to participate. Invite friends to join us for this Lenten journey. Check the March newsletter for details on a children's program and pre-study pot luck dinners to accompany the bible study.

Offering presented to Food Bank of CNY



A total of \$517 was raised through the Christmas 2010 Love Lights collection to benefit the programs of the Food Bank of Central New York. Outreach and Missions Commission Chairman Henk VanDerWerff and Associate Pastor Penny Hart presented the check to Lynn Hy, Director of Philanthropy for the Food Bank, on Jan. 18. Hy led them on a tour of the warehouse during their visit. They are pictured here in the warehouse as Hy shows the check from Liverpool First.

Feb. 20 Joyful Noise concert features Dolce Flutes quartet

Dolce Flutes, a professional flute quartet based in Syracuse, will perform at 4 p.m. on Sunday Feb. 20 in the sanctuary, as part of the Joyful Noise: Concert Series for the Community.

The quartet members are Kelly Covert, Dana DiGennaro, Martha Grener, and Liverpool High School graduate Jeanne Pizzuto-Sauve.

The quartet will present a varied program from their extensive repertoire. Admission to the event is free and open to the public.

Other upcoming concerts in this season are: Violinist David Mastrangelo and pianist Juan Francisco LaManna on March 27, and a Mother's Day piano recital by Eastman School of Music professor Russell Miller on May 8.



The concert is free of charge. An offering is taken to support the program and provide an honoraria for musicians.

Support two good causes on Feb. 6

Stay after church for a "Souper" lunch

For a free-will donation, enjoy a light lunch after church on Super Bowl Sunday. Serving is from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Menu includes hearty soups, fresh-baked bread, dessert, beverages. Funds raised will support the church's April mission trip to Red Bird.



Bring in canned soup for the food pantry

Evangelism & Member Care Commission is collecting cans of soup to be delivered on Super Bowl Sunday to the local food pantry. Please place your donations in the bins at the rear entrance or by the door to the sanctuary. Your donations will help those less fortunate to enjoy a warm meal.

Baby items delivered to New Life center



UMW secretary Linda Chambers helps Fran, director of the New Life Crisis Pregnancy Center, sort snowsuits, onesies, blankets and other baby necessities donated by the Liverpool First UMC church family. The generous response to the "Gifts for baby Jesus" collection more than filled a car trunk when UMW members delivered them to the center to be given to new mothers. The center, located in Mexico, NY, is supported by St. Anne, Mother of Mary Catholic Church and other organizations. It also offers birth control and information on abortion alternatives.

Hallmarks

Rev. Dr. Russell C. Hall, Senior Pastor



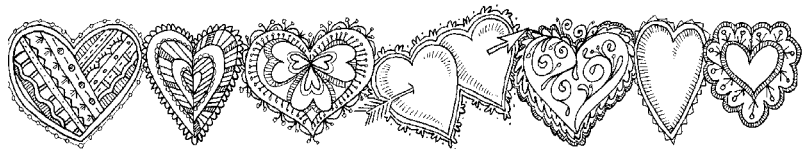
This inscription was discovered years ago carved upon an ancient sundial: "Time flies, sun rises, and shadows fall, let time go by, love is forever over all."

This month of February is the month to remember the gift of love in our lives. We will remember love on Valentine's Day and express that love to those closest to us. We who claim the name of Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord truly know what love is.

The power of love has changed the world for good through the centuries. It is equally relevant today that love must confront evil and negativity in our midst. The events in Tucson, AZ and even in our own community reminds us of the battle between good and evil each day in our society. Our church provides a place where love is practiced and preached. It is our calling to bring others to Christ by inviting them to encounter this great love through our fellowship here at Liverpool 1st.

God can use us this month of February to be His instruments of love by acts of kindness, words of encouragement, prayers of caring and invitations to worship and fellowship. Each of us can witness to God's love in Jesus by living out that love in our daily lives.

Remember the words, "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13)



Church Family News

Marriages

The following couples were married recently in our church: Daniel Kenneth Stannard and Karen Ann Church, on Jan 1.

In Sympathy

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Dave Smith, whose father passed away in December 2010. Sympathy is also extended to the family of Marion Luke, who passed away Dec. 13, 2010.

Thanks for helping with the dinner!

The Dinner/Fundraising Committee extends a huge thank you to all who turned out for the Chicken 'n Biscuits Dinner. The weather cooperated, and we served nearly 200 people and made more than \$500 toward the church budget. Many thanks, too, to the more than 50 volunteers who turned out to bake desserts, help with preparation and cooking, and serve and clean up!

Liverpool First United Methodist Church
604 Oswego Street, Liverpool NY 13088 315-457-5180

Ministers..... Every member of our congregation
 Pastors..... Russell C. Hall, Shirley Moore-Krackhardt, Penny Hart
 Pastor Emeritus.....Milton T. Jefferson
 Director of Christian Education Amy Doan
 Director of Youth Ministries Erik Rome
 Director of Music Ministries..... James Welsch
 Organist.....Nancy Harp
 Administrative Assistant Martha Miller
 Publications SpecialistCathy Temple
 Membership Secretary, *All of Us* Editor Kate Smith

Couples Club to meet Feb. 20

Join the Couples Club for "February Break" on Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. in the semi-private dining room at The Retreat. Enjoy dinner and discuss ideas for the rest of the year. There will be seating for 20 so call Steve and Donna Auyer at 451-7359 by Feb. 18 to save a seat.

Donations needed for May 7 Church Auction

It's time to prepare for the annual Church Auction, which will take place on May 7. Proceeds benefit our general budget, so it has an impact on all of the ministries we offer here at our church.

The auction committee is asking everyone in the congregation to consider donating something to be auctioned off -- either an item or a service that you can provide.

Donations can take many forms, from services such as baby sitting, lawn care work, or a car wash; to special outings such as a sunset cruise or a day of fishing with you on your boat, dinner at your house, or use of your camp for a weekend; to special items such as a dessert that you prepare, a gift basket that you assemble, or an attic treasure.

Gift certificates are very popular items for auction participants to bid on. If you frequent any lo-

cal business that might want to contribute a gift certificate, let us know. If you are unable to think of an item or service to donate, you might instead make a cash or check donation and we will make or provide an item in your name.

Plan to attend the auction on May 7, which begins with a 6 p.m. silent auction and then features the oral auction at 7 p.m.

To make a donation, please complete the form below and mail or bring it to the church by April 26. It must be in by April 26 to allow enough time for preparation and printing of the auction booklet. It is important to have your item in the booklet since it is handed out a week before the auction so people can decide what they want to bid on. This also helps to draw more people to the auction. Your donated items do not need to be brought in until May 6.

Church Auction Donor Form

Please complete this form and return it to church by April 17. Your donated items do not need to be brought in until May 6.

Date _____
 Donor _____
 Company Contact _____
 Address _____
 Gift _____ Retail Value \$ _____

Please fully describe this gift; include brand, model, and size if appropriate. If the gift is a service or any item which has conditions attached, please describe (for example, if you contribute a week at your cottage, condo, etc., what "strings" are attached?). If more space is needed, attach an additional sheet.

If the gift will be represented by a certificate, do you have a poster, brochure, or catalog that would visually represent it?

Yes
 No

If the item or service is not sold would you
 Want it back
 Allow the item to be disposed of at the discretion of the church

Donor Signature: _____

Men's Club Lenten Bible Study begins March 12

Based on the strong positive feedback received last year for the Lenten Bible Study that was conducted by the Liverpool United Methodist Men, the group will be presenting another one this year. Last year's study was centered around the best selling book "Quiet Strength", authored by Super Bowl winning coach Tony Dungy. This year the study will be based on NY Times best selling Christian

author John Eldredge's book, "Fathered by God". This book examines the six stages of life that God fathers men and boys through to become the man He intends them to be; Boyhood, Cowboy, Warrior, Lover, King and Sage.

The studies will be held in Fellowship Hall for six consecutive Saturday mornings, beginning with Saturday March 12, the Saturday after Ash Wednesday, and

end on Saturday April 16, the day before Palm Sunday. Breakfast will be served at 8:00am and the study will be conducted from 8:30 to 9:15am. Each session is self-sufficient, so it is not necessary to attend all of them.

Watch for notices in the Sunday bulletins for information on registration and purchasing a study guide.

Master's Touch Chorale to perform

The Evangelism and Member Care Commission announces that the Master's Touch Chorale will perform in our Sanctuary on Sunday March 6, at 4 p.m. Bring family and friends to hear this gifted group. Admission is free, a free will offering will be taken.

Join the April 18 - 22 mission trip to Red Bird

Members of the church are organizing a Work Camp trip to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky for this coming April, during school break week (April 18-22, 2011).



mountainous terrain provide obstacles to a fuller life for the residents of this isolated, distressed area. The mission and clinic strive to meet

these needs through ministry in five areas: Education, Health and Wellness, Community Outreach, Economic Opportunity, and Community Housing Improvement. Support for these ministries comes from churches and individuals across the nation.

Work Camp volunteers strive to provide home repair for low-income community residents and maintenance for Mission buildings and grounds. Some examples

of work projects are roof replacement, small room additions, painting, building porches or ramps, and grounds keeping. Other light duty work is available such as cutting soup upc's, office work, craft and community store helpers, and recycling. A single fee covers the cost of each person's lodging, meals, and materials used.

In addition to providing mission opportunities, the Red Bird staff strives to provide an atmosphere where participants grow spiritually and gain a personal understanding of mission. Evenings are spent in Christian fellowship and learning about the diverse ministries of Red Bird Mission.

Be the Church
Save the date and plan to take part in a district-wide day of mission work on Sunday, April 3.
"Be the Church!" here in the Crossroads District.

Women's Chocolate Getaway at Casowasco, March 4 - 6

Women of the community are invited to join together for a week-end of learning and connecting with other women while enjoying chocolate treats and the quiet beauty of Casowasco in winter.

The spiritual retreat takes place March 4 - 6 in the historic Galilee Lodge at Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center in Moravia. Find out more and reserve a spot by calling 315-364-8756, emailing registrar@casowasco.org or visiting the web site at www.casowasco.org.

Learn about Casowasco on Camp Sunday, Feb. 6

Summer Camp is right around the corner! On Sunday, Feb. 6, the congregation will hear a special mission moment from Shelby, program director from Camp Casowasco. On that day, Shelby will also share with the Sunday School children downstairs information about what camp might be like.

She will lead some games and activities that often take place at Casowasco.

Shelby will answer parents' questions at an information table she will have set up in the hallway after the 9:30 service.

On Feb. 6, a special offering will also be taken to fund Camp

Scholarships for children who otherwise would not be able to afford to participate in camp. Last year Liverpool First UMC sent 14 kids to camp. Lets do it again this year! Christian Education Director Amy Doan says, "It will be an exciting Sunday that you won't want to miss!"

Coming Soon: Lenten Fish Dinners

Join us for one or both of our Lenten fish dinners:
 Friday, March 25 and Friday, April 8 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

These dinners are pre-order only.

Look in the March newsletter and Sunday bulletins for an order form, or call the church at 457-5180 to place an order.

Buy a half-moon cookie for your Valentine

The dinner/fund raising committee will sell pink and white frosted half moon cookies on Feb. 13 for \$1.

They will be sold by pre-order only. Please fill out this form and put it in the offering plate or drop it off at the office. You may also call the office at 457-5180 to leave your order.

Deadline to order is Feb 10.
 Thank you for your support.

Order form for Valentine's Day half-moon cookies

Name _____

Phone _____

Number of cookies _____ @ \$1.00 = \$ _____

Shirley's Sharings

Rev. Shirley Moore-Krackhardt
Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Member Care



When I think of the month of February, I think of love. Not only the romantic love that is celebrated on February 14th each year, but I reflect on the love of friends, family members, neighbors, and church family. When I was younger I didn't fully realize how much commitment was connected to love. Of course there is another kind of love, a love that we cannot fully comprehend, the love of God for each of us. The richness of God's love is truly beyond our human definition.

The other thing I think about when it becomes February is; "I really have had enough of the cold and of the shorted days." I find myself each winter reviewing the many catalogues that come in the mail, looking at sweaters. If I find one I like that is on sale, it is likely to have my name on it. Sweaters are warm and comfortable, making me feel better, even when the days are cold and dreary.

However, God's love provides me with warmth, a definite warmth unmatched in any other way. This love is beyond what I can describe. I do recall one evening, very early in my journey to begin ministry, when I went through a very difficult situation that threatened my process. The next morning, after a wakeful night, as I was reading scripture, this verse spoke to me: "You did not choose, me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." John 15: 16. This verse is an affirmation and a guiding scripture for me. It helps me understand a little better the scope of God's love for each of us.

This scripture was not written especially for me, it applies to everyone. Imagine, you have been chosen! Jesus has chosen us and asks us to carry out his work of love, healing, sharing, and justice. Jesus is always available to us and provides the love and warmth we seek. God is present even when we do not "feel" the presence. We know this because of the promises of scripture. Tap into this great gift we each have been given through Jesus Christ.

So this February seek the, love and warmth of God that is given to each of us through the Word. God's love for each of us provides us with an example of committed love, a commitment unmatched in any other way. So as you think of love this February, give thanks for the indefinable love we receive from God.

Quote of the Month: "God, you are within us even when we fail to perceive you. Make us mindful of your Spirit, and let us be vessels of your creation. ... May we carry you in our hearts, just as you carry us through the blessings and trials of our lives. Amen."

-- Helaena W. Pritchard, Upper Room disciplines 2011



"The church sure has changed since I was a kid."

Grief recovery support group to meet Wednesday evenings

GriefShare is a special seminar and support group for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them. You are welcome to come if you have lost someone recently, or some time ago. The meetings held every two weeks provide a time for sharing, a DVD for gaining insights, and support for your journey of grief. This will be the third time this specific resource has been used. There are thirteen sessions in the program. They do build upon each other, but each session is useful in itself.



If you are wondering if this group for you, you are invited to come and check it out. Some parishioners from this church have found the group quite helpful during the past 18 months. You will find the GriefShare information on the Internet, including our group at www.griefshare.org.

The group will meet on the first, third, and fifth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. Pastor Shirley facilitates this group. You may reach her at 457-1087 for further information.

Mystery coin donor strikes again

by Rich Ertinger

For the last several years Liverpool First has been the fortunate beneficiary of a gold coin generously given by an anonymous donor. Most recently a coin appeared in a Sunday collection plate around Thanksgiving time.

The coin was a 1908 \$10 Indian Head, which I shopped around and eventually sold to the highest bidder for \$660. The design for that coin was commissioned by President Teddy Roosevelt, who did not like the existing \$10 coin at that time. Although he was a Christian, he felt strongly about the principle of separation of

church and state, so he insisted the coin not carry the motto adopted by the country's forefathers "In God We Trust".

For the first half of 1908 the coin appeared without the motto, but based on popular public outcry Congress overruled Roosevelt's decision and future mintings then carried the motto. Although not as rare and valuable as the mottoless coins, the coin we received, perhaps appropriately, did have the motto.

The donation is a wonderful example of the unselfish generosity of our members to support our church.

Office Building has some vacancies

There are two vacant offices in the church-owned Office Building at 600 Oswego St.

Office #4, on the top floor, is 175 square feet [approx 14'4" by 11'7"]. Rent is \$300 per month (\$3600 per year).

Office #5 is also on the top floor and is 295 square feet [approx 9'6" by 29' 10"]. Rent is \$300 per month (\$3600 per year).

Lighting, heat, and air conditioning are provided as part of the

rent. Other utilities such as telephone and Internet service are the responsibility of the tenant. Office furniture is not provided. The tenant must provide proof of liability insurance. The tenant is expected to sign a lease for a minimum of one year. If the tenant will have frequent clients, office #7 is available as a shared waiting room at an additional \$25 per month.

Please contact Dave Fulmer at 457-4087 if interested.

Purple Wheels available for rides to church

Do you know someone who could benefit by riding our bus to and from the 9:30 a.m. church service? Trained volunteers will bring passengers from home to church and back.

Passengers must be able to walk with or without a cane, crutches or walker (no wheelchairs or power chairs, as yet). Donations for gas and upkeep are always appreciated.



Transportation available for senior citizens through Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities Elderly Services provides transportation for Senior Citizens living in the town of Salina for shopping, banking,

medical appointments, and to Senior Centers. A small donation of \$2 per trip is charged. Please call 424-1810, Ext. 20 to reserve a ride.

2011 offering envelopes are ready to use

The 2011 offering envelopes are available on the tables in Fellowship Hall. The envelopes are arranged in alphabetical order. We ask you to stop by Fellowship Hall and pick up your envelopes.

Using your envelopes is a big help for the Sunday counters.

You may pick them up on Sunday mornings between 8 a.m. and noon, or throughout the week, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

If you are unable to get to church and would like someone to deliver them, please call the office at 457-5180.

Casowasco summer camp registration web site is open

Registration for Casowasco's Summer Camp 2011 is open! There are many popular programs, so families are encouraged to register early to ensure they get their first choice of camps.

Here are some important things to remember when registering:

1. All you need is a \$75 deposit to register, the remaining balance is due 3 weeks prior to the start of camp! **New this year:** If you register online you can choose the amount that you would like to pay (\$75 all the way to the full amount of the program) and make payments up until camp right online!

2. If you register before May 1, you receive \$40 off a full week program \$20 off a half week program.

3. Check out the new family programs and year round programs - including special camps for mom and daughters, father and sons, families, youth, children, grandparents and more!

4. Refer a friend to camp! If you register a friend that has never been to Casowasco before, and they mentioned that you told them about camp on their registration form, you receive another 5% off of camp!

For camp schedules, information, and to register, go to www.casowasco.org



From Pastor Hart's Heart

Rev. Penny Hart
 Associate Pastor of Missions and Outreach Ministries

Well here we are, it's February already. The Super Bowl has once again come and gone. Our "Souper Bowl" fund raiser for the Redbird Mission Trip was both delicious and successful, thanks to the generosity of our wonderful church family. Valentine's Day is right around the corner and the stores are full of flowery cards and hearts filled with chocolates.



In 1978, an Australian singer named John Paul Young had a hit song called "Love is in the Air". While it was originally meant to be a romantic ballad, many of the lyrics would make a wonderful praise song about God's love for us, or the ultimate Agape love. Among Christians, agape came to refer to the unearned love God had for humanity — a love so great that God was willing to send his only son to suffer and die on our behalf. Listen to a few of the lines in the song.

Verse one: "Love is in the air, everywhere I look around, love is in the air, every sight and every sound."

Verse three: "Love is in the air, in the whisper of the trees, love is in the air, in the thunder of the sea"

Verse five: "Love is in the air, in the rising of the sun, love is in the air, when the day is nearly done".

Just add "God's" to the beginning of each verse and I think we have a hit! OK, maybe I got a little carried away but I think you can see what I mean. God loves us that much. That is better than any Valentine's Day gift.

Every year my husband, John, buys a big Valentine heart full of chocolates. Not for me, for our daughter, Mary Rose. This tradition has gone on for years. A father showing love for his child. Sound familiar? Since the holiday is about love, let's see what the Bible says about love.

First, love of God is demanded of us. Moses tells us in Deuteronomy 6:5 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength." and in 11:1 "Love the Lord your God and always obey his orders, rules, laws, and commands." Next we are told of God's love for us in John 3:16, "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son..." Lastly we are told to love each other, Leviticus 19:18 "..... Love your neighbor as you love yourself...."

What this tells us is that love is not something that is set aside for one special day. Yes, Valentines Day is fun, it is also a huge money making industry. The love that the Bible talks about is an every day of our life kind of love, for God, by God, of ourselves, and of our neighbors around the world. Tell someone today that you love them.

Quote of the Month: The longer you read the Bible, the more you will like it; it will grow sweeter and sweeter; and the more you get into the spirit of it, the more you will get into the spirit of Christ.

-- William Romaine

Music Ministry Welcomes New Members

If you feel drawn to the music ministry of the church – through Chancel Choir or the Wesley Ringers (bell choir) this is a good time to join either group as they prepare music for Sunday worship and for special services during Lent and Easter. Chancel Choir rehearses Thursdays at 7 p.m. Wesley Ringers rehearse Wednesdays at 7 p.m. You will be welcome, and your gifts will be appreciated.

Simply show up for rehearsal or, for more information, contact Director of Music Ministries James Welsch at lfumcmd@twcny.rr.com.



New members welcomed in December

Six individuals joined the membership of Liverpool First United Methodist Church on Dec. 12, 2010. Pastor Shirley Moore-Krackhardt, associate pastor for evangelism and member care, introduces them here:

Beth Ford

Beth is a native of Syracuse where she still resides. She did venture down south where she lived for a while, but returned to Syracuse. She attended East Syracuse Minoa High School. She worked as a house painter, interior and exterior, until a fall last July sent her to the hospital.

Beth's son, Shane, has two children, Cora Lindsay 2 ½, and Christian who is 1 ½. Also, they will have an addition to their family in the months ahead. Beth enjoys being a grandmother and now spends much of her time babysitting. She also likes to draw, using colored pencils and charcoal.

Ray Titch introduced her to this church. She has stayed with us as she enjoys the people.

Paul Kulba

Paul and his wife, Kathy, came to this church because they were in the process of looking for another church. This church offered many of the things they were looking for; "air conditioning which is great in the summer, a wonderful choir, and three great pastors." They wanted a church that would fulfill their spiritual needs and they feel they have found a church home.

Paul has always lived locally; he was born in Syracuse, grew up in Baldwinsville, and now lives halfway between Baldwinsville and Liverpool. He graduated from Baldwinsville High School, and then attended Cornell, specializing in restaurant and hotel management. He has been executive chef in several places; the University Club, the Calvary Club, the Century Club, and the Lakeshore Yacht and Country Club. He is retired from Crouse Hospital.

He enjoys snowmobiling, hunting and antique cars. He drives a 74 Cadillac Laredo Convertible which you will often see parked across the street by Johnson Park. A highlight of his life was a trip in 2009 to Alaska. He went to volunteer for the Iron Dog Snow Mobile Race. On the plane he met

Jim Palin, Todd Palin's father. They had an extended conversation during their flight on the plane. Prior to the trip he had made contacts with a Methodist Church and was able to stay in people's homes in Anchorage and Fairbanks. He made wonderful connections and friends on this trip. Kathy will join him on his next trip.

Kathy Kulba

Kathy and Paul have three children and five grandchildren. Daughter Kim Cleveland is married to Lebert. They have two children; Loren who is 19, and Bethany 16. They make their home in Lancaster NY. Kelly Filmore, Kim's twin, is married to Geoff, and they reside in Kindar-en, Ontario, Canada. Their children are Ethan, 13, and Ana, 11. Their son Eric lives at home.

Kathy was born in Baldwinsville and grew up in Phoenix, NY, graduating from Phoenix High School. Following graduation she went to Powelson Institute here in Syracuse and later took some classes at OCC. She was employed at Penn Traffic for 26 years as an executive assistant to the vice president.

She likes to be outside in her garden. She loves to bake, Christmas cookies being her favorite. She has organizational skills and has been active since coming here to worship. She and Paul organized the successful plant sale that was held in May 2010, and they are planning a second one this coming May. Kathy also co-chairs the Senior Ministries program with Shirley Smith. They have taken two trips since fall, one to Old Forge, NY, and the other to the Beeches in Rome for "Christmas Around The World". They also organize the senior luncheon meetings on the third Wednesday of each month.

JoAnne Kozloski

JoAnne is a retired elementary physical education teacher from Central Square. She grew up in Syracuse, graduating from Nottingham High School. She went to SUNY Brockport for her BS, and



Pictured, from left, are Dr. Russell Hall, Terri Munk, Cynthia Golden, JoAnne Kozloski, Kathy Kulba, Beth Ford, Paul Kulba, and Rev. Shirley Moore-Krackhardt.

then took advanced courses at SU, Cortland, Oswego and Brockport.

She went to an Evangelical United Brethren on Park Street in Syracuse. Later the EUB joined with the Methodist Church to form the United Methodist Church, then she went to Gethsemane UMC, and later to another local UMC. She came here because she was looking for a church that offered something for her spiritual needs. She wanted some inspiration to help her through the day. She has some friends here and she says all the pastors provide good sermons.

JoAnne and her husband, Raymond, have two daughters. Jennifer Shea lives in Boston and has two children. Molly is 5 and Declan is 4. Tammy Reynolds lives outside Portland Oregon. She has a son Jack who is 5 years old.

JoAnne is an outdoors kind of person. She likes to hike, snowshoe, swim, and kayak, as well as read, sew, and do some crafts.

Terri Munk

Terri is a native of Oswego. She was born there, grew up there, and then graduated from Oswego High School. She received a BS from Oswego State in accounting. She left the area for a while, living in Florida and also New York City. Now she and her son reside in Liverpool.

She is an administrator for a

property management company in East Syracuse. She said she uses her accounting skills as well as management skills there. She is now a single mom of an 8-year-old son, Ethan is in second grade at Elmcrest elementary school.

Much of her time at home is spent with Ethan. He enjoys building with legos and going outside to look for bugs. They go on walks and hikes and they go camping with a tent. She spends time she has to herself reading.

She was looking around for a church when Larry and Loretta Pantan invited her to come here. She came to the 9:30 service and felt like the church "hugged her." She has been coming for only a few months and is looking forward to learning more about our church.

Cynthia Golden

Cynthia came to this church because someone told her there was humor here and that there were wonderful people here. She has stayed because she likes the music and the people.

She was born in Syracuse and graduated from North Syracuse high School. She has taken some special studies at Harvard. She enjoys music, teaching, writing and she likes to be creative. She has been involved with the Town of Salina Civic Center.

She has a sister in Colorado, living near Denver.

What's Up Downstairs?

by Amy Doan, Director of Christian Education



The Christian Education program's annual winter service project is taking the form of a shoe drive this year. It goes through Feb. 20. They are collecting gently used or new pairs of shoes (any kind of shoes is fine!), which can be dropped off downstairs in the gathering area or in the main hallway upstairs.

We are looking for durable boxes they can be shipped in and are taking donations for shipping expenses. We suggest donating \$1 for every pair that is donated.

To celebrate this service project, we are inviting all those involved in Sunday School and the congregation to participate in **Barefoot Sunday**, which will be on Sunday, Feb. 13. We invite anyone who wishes to participate to leave your shoes at the door that morning during 9:30 a.m. worship (please wear socks) in order to celebrate the shoe drive by relating to those who can't afford to own a pair of shoes!

Soles4Souls is a Nashville-based charity that collects shoes from the warehouses of footwear companies and the closets of people like us. The charity distributes these shoes to people in need. Since 2005, Soles4Souls has given away nearly 12 million pairs of new and gently worn shoes. The shoes have been distributed to people in more 125 countries, including Kenya, Thailand, Nepal and the United States.

LIFE News

by Erik Rome, Director of Youth Ministries

It is a new year with new beginnings for the LIFE ministry!

January has been a great month for the ministry. I started the year off by traveling to Colorado Springs to take two classes for seminary credit. The two classes were "Foundations of Youth Ministry" and "Proclaiming the Gospel to Adolescents." They were incredibly informational and I learned so much from them.

In my absence our great youth leaders ran the LIFE meetings. This semester we started off with two great messages from Mike Erhart and Martha Miller that the young people really connected with. We continue to see participants consistently coming back week by week, which is key for us presenting a congruent message.

We also ran our first "Youth Sunday" and it was so much fun! I was really excited for the congregation to see the young people that are walking in their faith and becoming disciples and following Christ.

Perhaps the highlight of January was the youth retreat to Casowasco! The weekend was all run by our youth -- worship, programming, speakers -- it was such a blessing to see them so excited about serving and using their talents. We had such a fun time with the teenagers at the camp and we got to learn through their heart for Christ! I am so happy to see the direction the ministry has taken over the last few months and will continue to go!



Sunday school children help create shoe collection banners



Why collect shoes?

Shoes help prevent the spread of parasitic diseases that plague more than 1.4 billion people worldwide - they are a basic human necessity. Many individuals in developing nations rarely have a pair of shoes. It is not uncommon for children to grow up in these areas without ever having had a pair of shoes at all.

The number of barefoot orphaned children, in Sub-Saharan Africa alone, is estimated to be above 20 million. More than 300 million children worldwide are without shoes.

Shoes are very often considered a required part of the school uniform in developing countries, and without shoes, many children are unable to attend school.

Many serious health conditions can be absorbed through the feet, even through the toughest soles. As the skin on the bottom of the feet toughens and thickens, large cracks can form, which allows parasitic infections such



as hookworm and threadworm to penetrate the skin. In addition, constant cuts and scrapes to the feet and ankles frequently become infected and many of these infections can lead to ulcers and worse.

Some of the most dangerous conditions of going barefoot is the risk of puncture wounds, cuts, scrapes and burns to the feet. These injuries are almost never treated and can lead to serious infections, amputations and even death. With the number of children living in

abject poverty and therefore surviving at a scavenger's existence, the feet are at tremendous risk as the child hunts for food or household items in garbage dumps, abandoned housing/construction areas, or while crossing through open sewer trenches and contaminated areas.

In addition to infections brought on by injuries, a child's bare foot is particularly at risk of infection by hookworm. Especially at risk are children living in African and Southeast Asian countries, where hookworm infections are common.

Prayer Corner
by Chris Mitchell

What do you know?

We have often heard it said that the only thing we can be sure of is death and taxes.

Somehow I want something more for my life.

Taxes I will pay and death is a reality of this world, however, God promises me more. According to Jeremiah 29:11, God has a plan for my life. Plans for peace and not disaster, plans to give me a future filled with hope. In fact a person's steps are directed by the Lord, and the Lord delights in his ways. Psalm 37:23

The world doesn't tell you these things, but these and many more truths can be found in the Bible.

We just celebrated Christmas and many people had a live tree. Actually it was a dead tree. The moment that it was cut it was dead, no longer connected to the source of life. The real Christmas tree is actually the cross. The gift

came down at Christmas but the true gift was given at Easter.

Eternal life can be mine, but it is only found in Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9 says; That if we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead, we shall be saved. God so loved the world that He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but have eternal life. John 8:32. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

Jesus is our rock, and if we build our foundation on Him we can be confident that we will be able to stand the storms in life. We build our faith and confidence in God by spending time in the Word." Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." In order to be strong in our faith we have to spend time with God in the word and prayer. Without air, food

and water our physical bodies will die. Our spiritual life needs spiritual food and that only comes from the Bible.

So take some time and ask yourself the questions, What do I believe? Whose truth am I relying on the worlds or the Bible? Is there life after death or is this all there is? And what about now?

We have a scripture in the sanctuary that says, God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth, John 4:24. Do you know what that means? If you are not sure, why not begin your search there.

Don't wait until the season of Lent is upon us -- begin your search now. Make a resolve to seek God and His presence. In His presence is where fullness of life can be found. Jesus came that we might have life, life abundantly, which means nothing missing and nothing broken.

Scenes from New Year's Eve at Liverpool First UMC



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