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THE MESSENGER

From the Pastors' Desk

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church is a quadrennial gathering of United Methodists from around the world. Clergy and Lay delegates come together to make decisions that impact the polity and practice of Methodism. They do so by engaging the Book of Discipline and seek needed revisions to help make the denomination healthier, stronger, and better equipped to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. They gather in holy conferencing for a time of discernment and worship. Worship is always an incredible diverse experience with voices from around the world singing and praising God together. This is truly our church at its best, when all the voices that create the United Methodist Church are heard in praise together. It rings echoes of Charles Wesley's famous hymn "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing." It is the hope that the reverberations of harmony will continue through the debates of the day.

Unfortunately, this year our General Conference tone was littered with unharmonious arguments and at times hateful speeches. It is obvious that we are still a denomination divided on many issues - close to heart is the conversation on human sexuality and the sacred worth of all God's children. It has been our experience in the past and as we sit at General Conference, watch the live stream broadcast, or read the feed from social media that too often words which harm our LGBTQI Christ-siblings are used. However this year in the midst of division and conflict a flicker of hope emerged. Words from Bishop Sally Dyck and Bishop Gregory Palmer

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spoke against fear and into God's potential to give us new direction. Furthermore, at the start of General Conference 111 LGBTQI pastors came out to the church in "A Love Letter to Our church from Your LGBTQI Religious Leaders." What an incredibly courageous risk this step of faith is for them. They have spoken hope into the midst of darkness and our hearts are in prayer for their faithful witness. In response national Leaders and United Methodist Clergy, including Pastor Heather, have signed a letter in affirmation supporting these 111 clergy by standing to refuse to fill their pulpits if removed on the basis of the sexual identity or to participate in church trials against any LGBTQI clergy. You can find this letter at - [http:// bit.ly/1RkkGK5](http://bit.ly/1RkkGK5)

Yet, perhaps the largest flicker of hope we saw was in the work of our denominations top leaders, our Bishops.

Continued on page 2

From The Pastor's Desk: *Continued from front page*

In an effort to maintain unity and to earnestly understand all points of view regarding sexuality, the bishops courageously asked for permission to present their own legislation. In their proposal they recommend a commission be created to explore ways to resolve the hurtful language in the Book of Discipline and create strategies for reconciling the many opinions surrounding sexuality, especially within our global context. To read their proposal visit <http://bit.ly/1RkkGK5> .

It is time to take a risk, stand for matters of the heart and be a faithful witness. We pray for God's Spirit to speak words of healing and hope to the most hardened of hearts and bring a fresh witness to the world that the UMC is a church of inclusion not exclusion, of mercy and not harm, of compassion not violence. God in your wisdom may it be so.... Amen.

-Pastor Heather and Pastor Drew



A Letter From Pastor Drew

Dear SSUMC,

As many of you are aware, I will be ordained on June 4th, 2016. This is a moment of tremendous affirmation of what has been a life long journey. I have felt called to ordained ministry since being a young boy. At the age of nine, I answered an altar call for individuals who felt God was leading them into ministry, during the ordination service of a family friend. While kneeling at the rail, Bishop Grove lifted my chin and whispered that he believed in me. My pastor also came forward and laid his hand on my shoulder. Together they affirmed my choice to answer this call at such a young age. Since then, I have worked toward this moment, a moment that I am truly humbled by and grateful for. It has been by the grace of God and the help of many individuals that I have finally made it!

You all are a part of my journey and have helped to lead me to this moment. I am grateful for each of you. Collectively you all have offered your support, wisdom, and openness, all of which has allowed me to explore this call to ministry more deeply. I especially want to share my gratitude for my friend, colleague, and *seniored* pastor, Heather. It has been Heather's humility that allows me to shine, her fearless leadership that allows me to grow, and her unwavering encouragement that keeps me going. Most of all I want to say thank you to my loving wife Eileen, for whom there are no words meaningful enough to express my appreciation. Her support through this journey has been the greatest gift I could have received in my lifetime. I hope to continue to serve in ministry with all of you for many years to come and look forward to seeing all that God has in store for us together. Thank you all for embracing me. You have certainly transformed my life.

-Pastor Drew

Mission Minute: During recent south Louisiana flooding, faith community rises to occasion

By Mark H. Hunter – from The Advocate

As the rains came down and the floods came up across Louisiana in March, the faith community responded quickly and efficiently, just as it always does in times of trouble. Churches provided shelters and boats to evacuate flood victims. Hundreds of volunteers from around the U.S. came and remain here feeding residents and helping them clean up the more than 11,000 homes damaged across 26 parishes, according to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Gov. John Bel Edwards praised the faith community's quick response when he spoke to about 150 pastors and other faith leaders at the Louisiana Family Forum's Pastor's Briefing following the 52nd Governor's Prayer Breakfast. "The great thing is not just the way in which the faith community responds, but the fact that the faith community doesn't wait. It's not waiting to be told what to do or where to go because you are in every community across the state of Louisiana," Edwards said. "You know the people here, you know what needs to be done and you respond to it in a great fashion. And I want to thank you." Edwards credited churches for "opening their doors to make sure people were fed and getting together volunteers to go out and start ripping out flooring and drywall that was not dry" and for partnering with government agencies. "What we do as a state wouldn't matter if there weren't folks out there in the communities working to improve peoples' lives," Edwards said.

Methodists 'know what to do'

Disaster response is nothing new to the Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey, bishop of the Louisiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, because before she became bishop here in 2012, she served as deputy general secretary of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. "When responding to disasters in Louisiana, United Methodists have adopted the phrase, 'When we don't know what to do, we know what to do,'" Harvey said. "In the past several weeks, that phrase rang in my ears and in my heart as I witnessed once again the way people respond to the needs of their neighbor. They don't even have to think about it or be told what or how to do it; they go into full-out help mode." Methodists rescued neighbors by boat, distributed buckets of cleaning supplies, opened churches as shelters and fed first responders, she said.

Here at SSUMC, the Mission Committee answered the call and twelve buckets were purchased and assembled during the Third Thursday Fellowship potluck dinner at the church. The team is bringing the kits to the UMCOR collection at Annual Conference this month.



Cleaning bucket assembly for flood victims.

Photos by Jessica Munson

Church Life

MUSIC BOX:

FROBENIUS ORGAN COMMITTEE NEEDS A CHAIRPERSON

In our twentieth year of presenting concerts with outstanding guest organists, we are in need of a person to act as chair of our concert committee. This is a volunteer position, and requires someone who is self-motivated, with organizational skills and positive "people" skills. There is a fine group of people on the committee at this time who all work hard for this series. The two concerts for next year have been decided upon, but there is much to do to coordinate everything. Please contact Rand Reeves if you have any questions or are interested in pursuing this. Rand's phone is 885-5472, or you can email him at Reeves1@nycap.rr.com.

JUNE 26th IS MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY

The Men's Ensemble, Joyful Hope Choir, God's Bells, and Chancel Ringers will all be offering music along with the Chancel Choir during the service (10:00am).

GENERAL CONFERENCE STUDY GROUP: The final session of the group will meet Sunday, June 19th (6-7:30pm) in the Sanctuary in conjunction with UMW. We will review a summary of the actions of the General Conference and discuss the implications for our congregation. Helping to understand the decisions of GC, Rev. Bill Mudge, Adirondack DS and a delegate to the GC and Brooke Conklin, a member of our congregation and a volunteer at the GC Session will be with us. All are welcomed to join us. Rev. Bill Lasher is the group leader.

NAVAJO MISSION TEAM:

On Sunday June 5, the Navajo Mission Team will host a bottle drive at the church to help raise funds for travel expenses to New Mexico. If you'd like to help, please save your bottles and cans for that date. Thank you very much for your support!

UMW READS CIRCLE

We meet the second Monday of the month September to June.

At our June 13 meeting we will discuss "Orhan's Inheritance" by Aline Ohanesian
Our summer selection is "My grandmother asked me to tell you she's sorry" by Fredrick Backman

All are welcome! For more information contact Natalie Bollerud at 584-1192.

LIVING SPRINGS CIRCLE

We will meet Friday, June 17 at Lynn Wochinger's in Porter Corners for a planning meeting and potluck lunch. For more information contact Teri Weber at 306-5136. All are invited to join us!

RUTH CIRCLE

We will meet June 27th at 12:30 in the Activity Room of Woodlawn Commons, 156 Lawrence St. for a shared luncheon and planning meeting for the coming year.

June

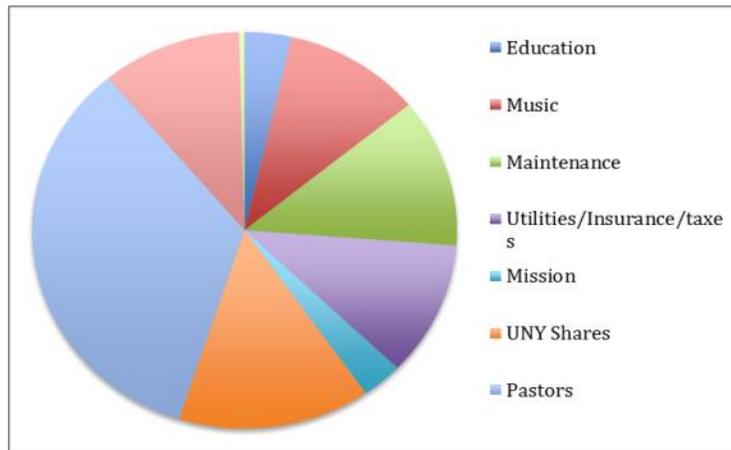
- 4th Pastor Drew's Ordination!
- 9th 7pm – Pints w/The Pastor
- 13th 7pm – UMW Reads
- 19th 10am – Summer Service
Schedule Begins
Youth Sunday
- 11 am – Church Picnic
- 6pm – General Conference
Study Group/UMW
- 26th 10am – Music Appreciation

Finance Update

Operating Budget Report: April

Income	Expenses
\$154,010	\$147,918

2016 Operating Budget Spending Plan



One of the goals established at our church retreat on May 1st was to provide stronger education about our general budget for the congregation. To that end we created this pie chart. It represents the percentages of how we use the funds in our general budget. It is important when reading the chart we remember this is only general budget spending. There are many other resources that are used to support the church's mission, which are not included in the general budget such as: Pastor's discretionary fund, mission trip funds, the building fund, special Sunday offerings, etc. The general budget is used to create the foundation, which allows SSUMC to flourish in the many vibrant ways we live out our mission. However it is only our foundation. While it accounts for \$450,000 of our resources, the church uses up to another \$150,000 a year to live out our vision to embrace everyone through designated funds. It is because of our strong support to the general budget that we are able to make such a large impact with our extended giving funds!

Total Operating Budget equals \$455,789

Education equals \$16,238 or 3.6%

This includes the salaries of the Christian education director and nursery care provider, and programmatic budgets for Sunday school and adult education.

Music equals \$47,620 or 10.4%

This includes the salary/stipends for all our music staff positions, music library costs, copyright licenses and Organ/Piano maintenance.

Maintenance equals \$54,997 or 12.1%

This includes the Facility Manager salary, snow plowing, general building maintenance, minor parsonage repair/maintenance and paper product supplies.

Utilities, Insurance, & Taxes equal \$49,832 or 10.9%

This includes telephone, cable, internet, trash removal,

Mission equals \$14,100 or 3.1%

This includes missionary support, local community needs, UMCOR advance specials, reconciling ministry network subscription, and church and society budget.

Upper New York Annual Conference (UNY) Shares equals \$66,458 or 14.6%

This includes our annual ministry shares to the conference, clergy retirement subsidy, and UNY Moving fund contribution.

Pastors equal \$153,744 or 33.7%

This includes two pastoral staff salaries and benefits.

Administration equals \$48,300 or 10.6%

This includes the Office Manager, Business Manager, and Financial Secretary salaries, the copier contract, and office supplies.

Hospitality and Worship equals \$1,900 or 0.4%

This includes the budgets for worship décor/media and fellowship hour supplies and general hospitality.

In the Spotlight: Church Dinners: Food, Fun and Fellowship



If you missed the most recent church dinner in April, a mouth-watering chicken barbeque, you missed out on food, fun and fellowship. As most people know, the Men's group has put church dinners on for the past several years. Over the past two years, a larger group of people has gotten involved.

For Will Chamberlin, working on these church dinners with other people has been a very rewarding experience. Will said, "I enjoy working with folks who have worked together for years on the dinners. We enjoy each other's company."

The people who attend these dinners have always seemed happy with the meals prepared according to Will. Rick Zutterling, another long time volunteer at these dinners enjoys seeing people happy with the food.

Will acknowledged that it is a lot of work to put the dinners on; he said that work on the dinner usually ties up his whole week. Although putting on a dinner is a big job, Will explained that they have learned a lot from past experience. They have been planning the dinners for years and prepare the same dinners which make things easier. Rick keeps track of the quantities of food used and Will shops around for the best deals.

Rick Zutterling cooked the chicken for the most recent barbeque with another hard-working volunteer, Robert Cornute. It is surprising that Rick has not had any formal training in cooking but has learned from working past dinners and the Madrigal Feasts. Ironically, he feels that cooking for 150 people is a lot easier than for two people. He said one of the tricks is to buy the right amount of food without too much left over. This year, they bought the right amount of chicken (160 chicken dinners were served) but ran out of corn beef at the March dinner.

In terms of cooking for the barbeque, Rick had a grill specially made that helps make the cooking easier. Other cooking tips include the importance of buying the right size chicken pieces and timing while cooking. When cooking the chicken on the barbeque, Rick said each piece of chicken needs to be cooked for an hour and a half as well as the meat needs to be turned every 10-15 minutes; the whole time the cooks need to be completely focused on the chicken.

Laura LeCours has helped sign up volunteers to assist the core group in putting on the dinners. Will said these dinners have recently gotten a boost and become a lot easier since the whole church has become involved. The day of the dinner has become shorter for Will with the help from other volunteers from the church. Rick agreed that getting a large number of church volunteers to help has been a big benefit.

Laura said that volunteering for the dinners is "fun and fellowship all day long." The volunteers who help with the dinners is too long to list here but Will said that Clayton Chubb and Joe Almeida went above and beyond the call of duty.

In addition to involving church volunteers in these events, community outreach is another important aspect of these dinners. Will related that having a free will offering for the dinners instead of charging a set amount works well. He said that some people are generous when paying so that others who cannot afford to pay a lot can enjoy the meal too.

If you missed the last church dinner, you will have to wait a while for the next one. In addition to stopping in to enjoy a good meal, church members can also volunteer. Volunteering can be rewarding and fun as well as an opportunity to enjoy fellowship with other people.



Fellowship Hosts

June 5th

Missions, Joy in the Morning, and Church & Society

June 12th

Welcoming & Nurturing and "Birthday People"

June 19th

Music Teams

June 26th

Trustees, Finance & Staff/Parish

In Our Prayers : Mary Beth Delarm, Bob Elmendorf, Donna Bailey, Emery Miller (Lil Robertson's cousin), Patty Gandee (Rosie Spring's Aunt), Betty Allen, Don and Linda Carpenter, Ray DeRidder, Thomas Family, Alden Barton, Ryan Vaughn, Sandy Mercaldi, Peggy Evans, Louise Hunter, Barbara Thomas, Linda Griffing, Marti Ladue, Barbara Peck, Barbara O'Brien, Patricia Squailia, Frank Crouch, Sue Zutterling, Virginia Cooley, Ethel Clark, Shirley Bozony, Marge Bramhall, Helen Smead, Rev. Walter Taylor

For Those Who Mourn the Loss of: Rachel Zareski Walts, Jim Malinski, Dr. Rachel Streit, Carolyn Vallelunga, Robert Dake, Lori Bussing, Alice and Paul Jones, Edna Lloyd, Ruth Burton, Bob Allen, Charles and Jane Flannagan, Theron Robinson, Janet Woodcock, Marjorie Grout, Eric Baum, Richard Gerlach, William Schewe, Stu Hefter, Kay Runge, Sylvia Hoyer, Don Smith, Rosy Zinn

For Those Around the World: Those serving their country at home and abroad, victims and families involved in violence, victims of recent natural disasters, those listed on our Prayer Board in the Lobby.

The Mission of Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church is to spread God's word as we embrace persons of any age, gender, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, economic condition, and physical or mental ability as full participants in a

Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church
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*We invite you to join us for Worship on Sundays at 9:00am & 10:45am,
with Coffee Fellowship between the services.*

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&

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Our Vision:

Embracing Everybody through deep meaningful connections