



Panama United Methodist Church

PO Box 243

Panama, NY 14767

(716)782-4031

Church Staff

Rev. Stephen J. Wiggers, Pastor

Kathy Peck, Secretary/Program Coordinator

Julie Nagel, Music Director; Krista Odell, Accompanist

Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse; Art Osborne, Custodian

Pat Sobolewski, JOY Center Teacher

Sandy Crossley, Aide

Panama United Methodist Church

Mission Statement

We seek to love the Lord God by introducing people to His son, Jesus Christ, and helping this relationship to grow.

Grace Notes

Volume 1 Issue 2

February 2010

Panama United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 243
Panama, NY 14767

Church Phone (716)782-4031
Church Fax # (716)782-2326
Church E-mail - panamaum@netsync.net
Church website - www.panamum.org

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ORGANIZATION

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Grace Notes...

From the Pastor's Desk...

One thing I discovered when I left a career in Agriculture Production was that winters were a lot different. Agriculture Production is a 24/7 deal. Every day, the cattle need to be cared for in cold weather and warm. Since I left that for seminary and full-time ministry, winters just haven't seemed as challenging.

Now for those of you without that "outside" background, the challenge is to find other ways to put cold snowy weather in some sort of positive spin. Let me give you a couple of suggestions. The Advent and Christmas seasons really take up a lot of December, and more so in November now, focusing away from adverse weather. In addition, January has a lot of Bowl games and sporting events that can be distracting as well. Then we get to February. It is a short month anyway! But something else about this month has great appeal.

February begins the Christian journey of Lent. I always look forward to these days, personally and professionally. Personally, these days prompt me to deeper introspection and discipline. Professionally, I'm energized by leading and being with others who see the same reflections. In the end, this period leads to Holy Week and Easter. You can't get any better than that!

I challenge you, the reader, to consider these days in prayer. God is with you each and every day as you seek His presence and grace. Every season of the year is fertile ground for your relationship with the author of life. What better time to spend extra moments of God's time with focus on the most important relationship you can possibly have. The Panama UMC plans additional services during these days to assist you in these encounters with the Risen Lord. Use these to God's glory and your personal growth in joy and grace. It is my favorite time of year.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever..." (II Peter 3:18 NIV)

In all things, Christ!

Rev. Steve Wiggers

From the Parish Nurse...

Mini Apple Strudels:

1 1/2 c. chopped, peeled tart apples

2 Tbsp. plus 2 tsp. sugar

2 Tbsp. chopped walnuts

1 Tbsp. all purpose flour

1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

6 sheets phyllo dough (14" by 9")

In a small bowl, combine the apples, sugar, walnuts, flour and cinnamon. Set aside.

Place one sheet of phyllo dough on a work surface (keep remaining dough covered with plastic wrap and a damp towel to prevent it from drying out.). Spray with butter flavored spray.

Fold in half widthwise; spray again with butter flavored spray. Spoon a scant 1/3 c. filling onto phyllo about 2" from a short side. Fold side and edges over filling and roll up. Place seam side down on a baking sheet coated with cooking spray. Repeat.

With a sharp knife, cut diagonal slits in tops of strudels. Spray strudels with butter flavored spray. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar, if desired.

Nutrition facts: 1 strudel equals 100 calories; 3 g fat; 0 cholesterol; 45 mg sodium; 17 g carbohydrates; 1 g fiber; 2 g protein

Diabetic exchange: 1/2 starch; 1/2 fruit; 1/2 fat

Youth Update

February Dates to Remember:

Feb. 7**Superbowl Party in the Youth Room** - Arrive at 5:30pm

Feb. 13.....**Sweetheart Dinner** - Talk to Adam/Tory for arrival time and what to wear! (** Any Youth *NOT* attending the high school dance are asked to **PLEASE** help serve.)

Feb. 14....**Regular Youth Meeting** - 6 p.m.

Feb. 21.....**Ice Skating & Broomball @ JSB Ice Arena** - Let Adam/Tory know if you want to go so they can arrange for drivers. (** Parents please let Adam/Tory know if you would like to drive - free skating for anyone interested.)

Feb. 28....**Regular Youth Meeting** - 6 p.m.

If the sledding party planned for late January is cancelled due to lack of snow, we will reschedule it sometime during February so... stay tuned!!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

Brenda Ireland, High School Class Leader, states, "The High School Class is up to no good!" If you are in grades 9-12 and not coming to class, you may want to start ASAP. Update on this situation will follow in the March 2010 newsletter.

Sunday Morning Team

February Lay Readers

February 7

Bill Peck

February 14

Cindy Furlow

February 21

George Anderson

February 28

Sam Catanese

March Lay Readers

March 7

Karen Morton

March 14

Becky Sprague

March 21

Carol Hay

March 28

Jody Marsh

Ushers

FEBRUARY

Lee and Betty Crosby

Jack and Linda Sturges

MARCH

Kyle and Brynne Hinsdale

Tory and Adam Irgang

Nursery Helpers

2/7 - Carol Hay

2/14 - Karen Morton

2/21 - Tia Kester

2/28 - Kelly and Sarah Osborne

Tina is looking to add some youth helpers (guys or gals) to the schedule each week. Please let her know that you'd be happy to help!

ALSO - a special thank you to all who serve so willingly on this very important ministry.

STEWARDSHIP

The average Sunday school attendance through January 24 was 52.

The average Sunday worship service attendance through January 24 was 131.

We have received \$15,896 in tithes and offerings through January 24. This is an average of \$3,974 per week, and we need to average \$5,036 per week to meet our program plan for 2010.

We have received \$545 for Missions through January.

During the month of January, we also received the following:

\$325.....CSI in support of the Andersons
\$50.....Funeral dinners
\$103.....Initial Offerings
\$150.....JOY Center
\$165.....Memorials
\$80.....RFKC
\$63.....Copier network
\$95.....Haiti Relief

We have received \$995 through January 24 for the Trustees' fund.

Basketball Anyone?

The Houghton Highlanders will be playing against the University of North Western Ohio on Saturday, February 6, at 2pm. If you are interested in attending, meet at the church no later than 11 a.m. to carpool. Following the game at Houghton, we plan on stopping at Sprague's in Portville for dinner. We hope that you will join us.
(Bryce would be thrilled!)

BIRTHS

Congratulations ...to the Apthorpe family on the birth of Andrew Howard. Andrew was born on January 7, 2010. He weighed 9 lb 2 oz and was 22 inches long. Proud parents are Clint and Jennifer. Claire, Matthew, and Caroline are Andrew's older siblings.

And

...to the White family on the birth of Trevor Lee. He was also born on January 7, 2010. Trevor's parents are Greg and Stephanie White. Trevor is the great-grandson of Everett Bensink.

Blessings and best wishes to these two happy families.

BAPTISMS

During worship on January 10, 2010, we officially welcomed Brittany Lenart and Emily Waller in Christian Baptism. Brittany is the daughter of Jim and Rita Lenart. Emily is the daughter of David and Lisa Waller. Our love and prayers are with these young women and their families as they grow in God's grace.

IN SYMPATHY

Our thoughts are with....

...the family of Joyce Wells, who passed away on December 28, 2009. Joyce was the aunt of Linda Nobbs and Sam and Pat Catanese.

...the family of Timothy Bascom. Tim passed away on January 3, 2010. Tim is survived by his parents, Tim and Judy, and his siblings, Linda, Teri, Kimberley and Tom.

...the family of Jim Lenart, husband of Rita and father of Nick and Brittany, who passed away on January 12, 2010. Jim will be greatly missed, in the Panama community, as well as at the PUMC.

Our prayers are with all of these families during this time of grief and adjustment to life without their loved ones.

Tape Ministry

February 7

Gerrie Simmons** A116

Vi Sturges B227

Kippy Stratton B258

Phyllis Patterson** H. Green

Kathy Smith**TW 218

Van Luther TW 208

Trudy Anderson

Trudy Anderson

Trudy Anderson

Barbara Hart

Diane Johnson

Diane Johnson

February 14

Gerrie Simmons** A116

Vi Sturges B227

Kippy Stratton B258

Phyllis Patterson** H. Green

Kathy Smith**TW 218

Van Luther TW 208

Jack and Linda Sturges

Jack and Linda Sturges

Jack and Linda Sturges

Eloise Smith

Rachel Reardon

Rachel Reardon

February 21

Gerrie Simmons** A116

Vi Sturges B227

Kippy Stratton B258

Phyllis Patterson** H. Green

Kathy Smith**TW 218

Van Luther TW 208

Thea Kester

Thea Kester

Thea Kester

Sharon Passarelli

Julia Nelson

Julia Nelson

February 28

Gerrie Simmons** A116

Vi Sturges B227

Kippy Stratton B258

Phyllis Patterson** H. Green

Kathy Smith**TW 218

Van Luther TW 208

Bill Peck

Bill Peck

Bill Peck

Peter Komarek

Jean Edwards

Jean Edwards

**No tape—just a bulletin and a short visit

REMINDER: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Bill Peck is always looking for additional volunteers to make visits and deliver tapes and bulletins to those on our tape ministry list. If this is a ministry in which you would like to share, please contact Bill at 782-2249.

It will surely be a bright spot in your week!

Footnotes from the Library

I don't know about you, but this time of year always gets me in the mood to organize. I don't know if it is because I suffer from a little "cabin fever" or what. But I try to get the chaos around me under control. No easy task I might add.

The same goes for work too. Running a public library can be, at times, a bit daunting and also a bit frustrating. Nothing is ever where it is supposed to be, or at least it seems that way. Maybe it's just what I'm looking for isn't where I last put it! I tend to lose things I haven't seen for awhile, and sometimes, I just plain forget I had them at all.

Am I the only one? I sure hope not! If this sounds familiar, take heart. You are not alone! If you have borrowed a book, CD, or movie from the church library, this might be a good time to try and find it. Sometimes we have great intentions of reading that book or we watched the movie awhile ago but we just seemed to forget to take it back. And if you are like me, you have your own collections at home where these items just seem to find their way into! It's time to check those shelves and return those items borrowed way back when!

Also, please remember to date stamp any material you borrow from the library. Stamp the card pocket in the back of the book as well as the date due card and sign your FULL name. This makes tracking you down a little easier!

The library has some really fabulous offerings just waiting to be taken home and used. Why not stop up after church or your meeting and grab a great book or a movie! You'll be happy you did!

That's all for now....happy reading and God's blessings...

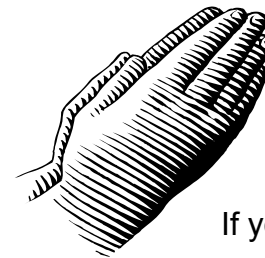
Tabetha

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Isn't it amazing how fast time flies? Here we are - a month into 2010. Wow - where did January go? We would like to welcome our new co-chair for Christian Education, Carm Catanese. We are very excited about the new ideas that she brings. She's been one of our dedicated teachers and now she's bringing all that experience to help us build upon an already exciting program. We don't want to miss the opportunity to say "Thank You!" to Trudy Anderson. She has done a terrific job and we will miss her special gifts. THANKS, TRUDY!

We want to say thanks to everyone who donated to our White Gift offering. We raised an awesome total of \$1,500. With that offering, we were able to help 7 families in our community. In Sunday School, we learned the parables that Jesus taught in Matthew 25. His words say, "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me." God bless each of you for putting that teaching into practice and helping those in our community who needed a helping hand!

Please make time to come to Sunday School. It's a great way for your family to start Sunday morning worship. Each of our Sunday School teachers is working hard to prepare exciting lessons. There are classes for every age...you'll be amazed at how blessed your morning will be if you start it out with Sunday School.



Prayer Chain

If you have a concern you would like others to pray for, please call Susie Davis at 782-4611 or Jean Edwards at 782-2800. Your prayer request will be passed down the chain to 20+ others who will pray and continue to pray about your situation.