

Thank You!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for responding to the Heart for Haiti challenge. We have a huge responsibility to now move forward - building a primary school in Gallette, Haiti. With God's direction and our listening ear, we press on.

*In His Service,
Bert and Mary*

CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Steven M. Taylor, Pastor
Kathy Peck, Program Coordinator/Secretary
Tory and Adam Irgang, Youth Leaders
Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse
Julie Nagel, Music Director/Accompanist
Krista Odell, Accompanist
Art Osborne, Custodian
Pat Sobolewski & Sandy Crossley, JOY Center
Bert and Roberta Anderson in Haiti
Dr. Mark and Diane Abbott in Spain
Reverend Peter Perry in Alaska

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday - 9 a.m. - noon
Tuesday - 9 a.m. - noon
Wednesday - 9 a.m. - noon
Wednesday Evening - 6 - 6:45 p.m.

From Pastor Steve's Desk...

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! This is *Grace Notes*, the newsletter of the Panama UMC. In these pages, you will find news and events of what God is doing through His people in Panama and around the world. Come serve, love, laugh, and experience at Panama UMC.

They Met Together...

One summer while camping, my family and I were getting ready to have dinner – I think it was chicken. I made a pile of charcoal, poured a few gallons of lighter fluid on it, and backed away as I threw the match into the now-dripping pile of black briquettes. As the pile burst into flames, my son and I were fascinated (as boys are) with the fire. He asked me what was happening and so I explained to him the chemistry of fire, etc. We were curious about the way the flames grew in the pile.

There's just something about the way these little briquettes are constructed that when you put them together in a pile and the fire glows, they get really, really hot. But if you isolate one briquette, it cools off quickly and it loses its fire. When they stick together, there's fire, because they feed off each other...God designed them to work that way.

The church is like a pile of charcoal bricks. When we come together, are soaked with the stuff that makes us burn with the Holy Spirit fire, and allow God to light us, the biggest impact happens when we are together. If we are isolated from worship, from learning, and from serving, our fire quickly grows dim and our impact for Jesus becomes cool. God designed us to be together, and feed each other's fire for Him.

The early disciples were a burning pile as well (not sure if that's the best way to say it, but...). After Jesus died, they were compelled to be together to support and encourage each other and learn to share their faith and witness to Jesus. In Acts 2:42-43, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles." The fire that burned in their fellowship was transforming them and those around them with the many wonders of God. Because we are culturally separated from the disciples in the first century, we may not be ready to have the commune they did. But what they did have was a love for each other in community that allowed their hearts to be transformed from the inside out by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(continued on page 2)

(From Pastor Steve's Desk..., continued)

Leading up to Lent this year, we will be studying the first four chapters of the New Testament book of 1 Corinthians. We will be exploring our unity in Christ which was John Wesley's vision for the church in the 18th century. It is the vision for disciples to grow together – to burn together – in the image of Jesus, as we love our community, our families, our neighbors, and each other. This will lead us into a deeper look at the cross of Christ during Lent, and our year-long emphasis on spiritual gifts and gifts-based ministry.

Let's burn together for Christ!

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

Pastor Steve's February Calendar



- 1 1-3 p.m. Visitations; 7 p.m. Band of Brothers
- 2 6 p.m. Praise Team; 6:30 p.m. Prayer Team;
7 p.m. Choir; 8 p.m. Trustee Team Meeting
- 3 6:30 p.m. Sunday School Teachers
- 4-5 Sabbath and Day Off
- 6 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Sunday School/Worship/Communion
- 8 11:10 a.m. Preschool; 1-3 p.m. Visitations; 6 p.m. NCD;
7 p.m. Worship Team Meeting
- 9 6 p.m. Praise Team; 6:30 p.m. Prayer Team; 7 p.m. Choir
- 11-12 Sabbath and Day Off
- 13 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Sunday School/Worship
- 14 9 a.m. Food Pantry
- 15 11:10 a.m. Preschool; 1-3 p.m. Visitations; 7 p.m. Worship Team Meeting
- 16 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch; 6 p.m. Praise Team ; 6:30 p.m. Prayer Team; 7 p.m. Choir; 7:30 p.m. Church Council
- 18-19 Sabbath and Day Off
CRM Retreat at Skye Farm (Fri. – Sat.)
- 20 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Sunday School/Worship
- 21 Office Closed for President's Day
- 22 1-3 p.m. Visitations; 7 p.m. TLC Leaders' Meeting
- 23 2 p.m. Camp Findley Board of Directors Meeting
6 p.m. Praise Team; 6:30 p.m. Prayer Team; 7 p.m. Choir
- 24 7 p.m. Grace Visitation Team Meeting
- 25-26 Sabbath and Day Off
- 26 8 a.m. Band of Brothers Breakfast;
8 a.m. Ski Trip to Holiday Valley
- 27 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Sunday School/Worship
- 28 28 7:30 a.m. Breakfast meeting; 9 a.m. Leadership Development Team (Falconer); 9 a.m. Food Pantry

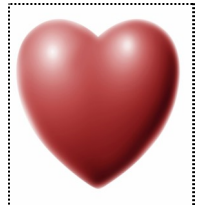
Haiti Mission Opportunity

A mission team to Haiti, from April 16-23, is being organized. At the writing of this article, the team is almost 1/2 full. The team will be heading to the Lazarus Project in Croix-des-Bouquet, Haiti, where Bert and Roberta are now located. The project will be tailored to the team members and could include mild construction projects, working with children and/or other ministry needs. The Lazarus Project is part of the Village of Hope school and the Little Children of Jesus home for handicapped children.

The overall cost is about \$960 (airfare prices may change). If you are interested in reserving a spot on this team (first come, first serve), please contact Michele Harms at (716)985-4438 or email her at mgharms@stny.rr.com.

Heart for Haiti Campaign

The 26 week fund raising campaign has been completed. As the Panama United Methodist Church always does, again we went above and beyond the call. We set a goal of raising \$20,000 towards the overall campaign goal of \$250,000. As always, we surpassed our goal and raised \$20,934.36. Great job done by all!!!!



The one-year anniversary of the devastating earthquake was January 12. We sent our contribution on the anniversary date to Allegany Region Missions in Randolph. A.R.M will be the distributor of the funds to Christian Service International for the specific projects set forth for this campaign.

This was a great achievement for PUMC and a faith builder for all involved. Please be in prayer and consider continuing the "extra" giving you gave towards Heart for Haiti and help fund other missions and projects we have at PUMC.

As it is written in Matthew 25:40... "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you.'"



February 2011

Dear Friends at PUMC,

We are no longer complaining about the cold! After a brief snow delay causing an overnight in Fort Lauderdale, we arrived safely in Haiti on January 13, just in time to help Debbie Berquist, Field Director, celebrate her birthday. She said our arrival was the best present!

We wasted no time beginning our orientation. Bert has a to-do list that will keep him and the upcoming teams busy for quite awhile. We have several teams coming this spring, including one organized and led by Michele Harms from Allegheny Region Missions. We look forward to introducing ARM to this mission field. Anyone from PUMC joining Michele's team? We would love to have you.

We have toured the property in Ganthier where the VOH School is located and where the new health center will be built. We spent a day preparing for the upcoming board meeting with the Director of the school, Clovis Elias. Strategic Planning, goals and objectives, etc. follow you everywhere, even in Haiti.

Our first team of this year is from Joyful Spirit Lutheran Church, Bolingbrook, IL. They arrive on January 29. Many of the team members have been here previously. That will make our learning curve for team activities shorter.

We received our mailing address (for first class mail only)
Bert & Roberta Anderson
c/o Agape Flights PAP #26035
100 Airport Avenue
Venice, FL 34285

We ask for prayers for Debbie and her mother. Her mother has been diagnosed with cancer and Debbie is trying to balance her time here and with her family. We so appreciate them

Blessings to all,
Bert & Roberta

Sunday Morning Worship Team

February

Lay Readers

- 2/6 - Shelley Croscut
- 2/13 - Karen Morton
- 2/20 - Jody Marsh
- 2/27 - Dave Calcaterra

Ushers

- Jerry and Pam Ireland
- Joel and Jessica Keefer

Nursery Helpers

- 2/6 - Karen Morton and Lauren Tordella
- 2/13 - Tina Shaver and Logan Hickman
- 2/20 - Julia Nelson and Corinne Edwards
- 2/27 - Kelly and Sarah Osborne

March

Lay Readers

- 3/6 - Tabby Butler
- 3/13 - Debbie Loveless
- 3/20 - Cindy Furlow
- 3/27 - George Anderson

Ushers

- Jerry and Pam Ireland
- Joel and Jessica Keefer

Nursery Helpers

- 3/6 - Yvonne Calcaterra and Alyssa Jaeger
- 3/13 - Barb and Lauren Tordella
- 3/20 - Carol Hay and Sarah Osborne
- 3/27 - Stacy and Abby Taylor

.....NURSERY NOTE.....

If you are unable to be in the nursery for your scheduled Sunday, please ask another person to switch with you. Please let Tina know that you have switched.

Thank you for your dedication to our young children. Tina

Tape Ministry

February 6

Gerrie Simmons* LSS A116
Phyllis Patterson H Green 327
Kathy Smith TW 218
Van Luther TW 208

Trudy Anderson
Lester & Wyona Wevers
Julia Nelson
Julia Nelson

February 13

Gerrie Simmons* LSS A116
Phyllis Patterson H Green 327
Kathy Smith TW 218
Van Luther TW 208

Thea Kester
Bill Peck
Jean Edwards
Jean Edwards

February 20

Gerrie Simmons* LSS A116
Phyllis Patterson H Green 327
Kathy Smith TW 218
Van Luther TW 208

Jack & Linda Sturges
Eloise Smith
Diane Johnson
Diane Johnson

February 27

Gerrie Simmons* LSS A116
Phyllis Patterson H Green 327
Kathy Smith TW 218
Van Luther TW 208

Sharon Passarelli
Rachel Reardon
Art & Jeanette Osborne
Art & Jeanette Osborne

***No Tape - just a short visit and a bulletin**

Tape Ministry Information

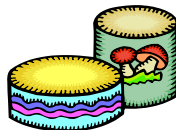
The tape ministry is in need of 3 or 4 more people to deliver tapes to the shut-ins. Some people have decided not to deliver anymore and others go south for the winter. We may have to deliver every other week if we can't get any more volunteers. Please consider this ministry, as you may want it someday. Please call Bill Peck if you would like to be a part of this team.

Thank You!

A donation to our food pantry was made by PCS 7th and 8th graders. A movie night was held at the school and admission to the movie, "Despicable Me", was a canned good.



Thanks for your generosity, kids!



Recipe from the Parish Nurse

Minty Meltaways

- 1 c. all purpose flour
3/4 c. cornstarch
1/8 tsp. salt
1 c. unsalted butter, softened
1/3 c. peppermint extract
GLAZE
1/2 c. confectioner's sugar
1 to 2 Tbsp. fat-free milk
Red food coloring
1. Place oven racks in upper and lower thirds of oven and preheat oven to 350.
 2. Combine flour, cornstarch, and salt in bowl. With electric mixer on medium speed, beat butter until creamy, about 1 minute. Add confectioner's sugar and peppermint extract; beat 4 minutes. Reduce speed to low. Add flour mixture, beating just until blended.
 3. Form dough by tablespoonfuls into 1 inch balls. Place balls on 2 large ungreased baking sheets, 1 inch apart. Bake just until tops are firm, 8-10 minutes. Transfer to racks and let cool completely.
 4. To make glaze, whisk confectioner's sugar, milk, and food coloring until smooth. (If necessary, add remaining 1 Tbsp. milk until pourable.)
 5. Drizzle glaze evenly over cookies. Let stand until glaze sets, about 30 minutes. If making ahead, transfer cookies to airtight containers with wax paper between layers. Cover and store at room temperature up to 1 week.

.Women and Missions (WAM)

WAM will meet Monday, February 14, at 11:45 a.m. at the Rowdy Rooster Restaurant. Come and hear Carol Hay share her thoughts about her trip to Nicaragua.



We hope to see you there!



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is back in full swing after taking a short break over Christmas. February is always a busy month, and this year it's filled with outdoor activities! On

February 6, we will host the 3rd Annual Sledding Party at Edwards' Hill across from Randolph Road. Youth should wear warm clothes and bring a sled or two. Snack assignments are as follows:

7th and 8th graders - salty snack (like chips or pretzels)

9th, 10th, 11th graders - sweet snack (like cookies or candy)

12th graders - hot dog buns

Adam and Tory will bring hot chocolate, soda, and hot dogs. The party will start at 2 p.m. and end promptly at 5, so there is plenty of time to get home before the Super Bowl begins!

On February 20, we will join the rest of the Cornerstone District's youth for a crazy afternoon of tubing at Holiday Valley, followed by a concert at Little Valley UMC. More details will be coming, but you won't want to miss this one!

Please keep praying for our youth as we learn more about what God's purpose is for our lives and how we live for Him everyday. We'll make sure to include pictures in March's edition of Grace Notes!

Hello, and happy February!

I was under the piano during the last Church Council meeting and heard Jerry talking about a problem with the kitchen refrigerator. Apparently, a variety of items have been placed on top of the fridge over time and had fallen behind it, having been pushed from the front when people didn't see them. That caused a problem behind the fridge, prompting a service call. I heard Pam say she'd mention it in Grace Notes but I thought I'd beat her to it.



Happy Valentine's Day to you all...see you next month.

Love,

Charlie



Prayer Chain

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

Because of your faithfulness...

Because of your faithful giving, we have received a total of \$15,904.30 through January 23, 2011, for the general fund. This is an average of \$3976.08 per week. Additional monies received were designated as follows:

Plate cash and donations	278.26
Sunday School	326.19
Missions	1,074.00
JOY Center	115.00
Camping Scholarships	15.00
Heart for Haiti	446.00
Food Pantry	90.00
White Gift	50.00
Advent Folders	20.00
Music Ministry	62.65
Flowers	119.50
Andersons	300.00
Salvation Army	20.00
Initial offering envelopes	92.00

Balance in Trustees' Capital Fund Account - \$10,915.58.

We thank you for your faithful giving in support of the ministries of the Panama United Methodist Church.

If you would like giving envelopes for 2011 and you have not yet received them, please see Cindy Cartwright, or let Kathy know in the Church office.

What is a Scholarship?

Winston Simplified Dictionary #3:

Financial support for a student supplied by an educational institution or by an individual

New Vest Pocket, Webster's Dictionary #2:

money given to help a student

Hart-Button Pastor & Missionary Scholarship Fund

Originated 1994

The Memorial Scholarship Fund is in memory of Lawrence D. Hart, his parents, Clayton S. and Norah S. Hart, and his aunt, Edith S. Button.

The purpose of the Memorial Scholarship Fund is to provide financial assistance to dedicated members of the Panama United Methodist Church, who have felt the call to go into Christian Service, either as a United Methodist pastor or a United Methodist missionary.

The Memorial Scholarship Fund will be managed by the United Methodist Church Finance Committee. The Finance Committee and Barbara D. Hart, as long as she lives, will make all decisions as to who may receive financial assistance and the yearly amount to be awarded to each applicant.

Any Panama United Methodist Church member over the age of 17 years, who has been a member for at least two years, and is dedicated to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as a pastor or missionary may apply. Financial assistance from the scholarship fund will be awarded for study in a United Methodist related college, seminary or two-year preparatory college.

Applicant will be awarded assistance in the form of a grant. However, the grant is contingent on the applicant performing five years of Christian service after completion of his/her education. If the applicant fails to perform the mandatory service, repayment of funds is required. The depletion of the fund is not to exceed \$5,000 a year. This amount may be awarded to an individual or to multiple persons within the year. This amount is not a guarantee, nor should it be an expectation, of the award. Grant value will be determined individually and annually. Requestor will apply by application and interview with the Finance Committee.

Any interested persons who wish to support this Memorial Scholarship Fund are welcomed and appreciated. It is my wish that this Memorial Scholarship Fund be updated and printed in the January issue of the church newsletter each year.

In my Precious Savior's Name,
Barbara Hart

Future issues of Grace Notes...

Future issues of Grace Notes will highlight the various ministry teams that we have at the PUMC. The Nominations Team felt that it would be valuable for the congregation to know more about each team (responsibilities, makeup of the team, etc.). This information will be helpful when the Nominations Team is working to fill the open slots on ministry teams in the fall. If, during the year, you read about a team that you might like to be on, please let Pastor Steve know of your interest.

A Note from Steve and Melissa

Greetings from the Wiggers Family. Hope that your holiday season was as blessed as ours...the birthday of Christ is surely a time to celebrate, and we did so with our church and extended families.

We haven't sent a family letter in a long time, but our lives changed dramatically in 2010, and we wanted to share it with you all! How about a quick calendar run-down. Easier to read...or not...that will be up to you !!??
FEBRUARY - Jarrett and Elizabeth announced they were expecting our first grandchild in October - we felt old and excited all in one moment.

MARCH - Joel graduated from Full Sail University in Winter Park, FL with a degree in Recording Arts. We were so proud...he worked very hard...Elizabeth helped gather sap for the first time—welcome to the Wiggers tradition. Unfortunately it was not a good maple syrup year!

MAY - Steve received a call from his District Superintendent, which usually means one thing...he was asked to leave Panama and pastor the Fredonia First United Methodist Church, and after prayerful consideration he accepted the move. The next six weeks would prove to be very challenging.

JULY 1 - Moving Day! We packed up and moved to Fredonia, NY , along with Joel and Roscoe. The mixture of good-byes and hellos made for an emotional time, and we still feel that but as time *passes*, we are adjusting to our new ministry. Jarrett and Elizabeth came and helped us settle in—it was great to have the 5 of us together.

OCTOBER 6 - Adalynn Elizabeth Wiggers was born at 5:06 p.m. in Ocoee, FL. Steve and Mel were in route during labor and thankfully made it from the airport to the hospital in time for the birth. Lots of waiting and visiting with the Cole and Quain extended...and it paid off. Our little princess is beautiful.

NOVEMBER - Jarrett , Elizabeth and Adalynn came for Thanksgiving...lots of visiting, eating, and hunting.

DECEMBER - Steve and Melissa went to not-so-sunny and warm Florida after celebrating Christmas with Joel and our extended Wiggers family. We had a great reunion with family and friends and spent a lot of time bonding with our Addie. Saying goodbye was SO hard, and magnified even more when we returned to WNY and said our goodbyes to Joel, who has moved to Portland, Maine, to begin his career. He has a good job in marketing while spending spare time building up his recording business. We are proud of his accomplishments, but miss him...Roscoe is still moping...so sad.

And so...our nest is quiet again, so pray for us as we adjust. Lots of change...lots of blessings...and always faithful to His call.

May God bless your 2011. We would love to hear from you.

Steve and Melissa

A Note from the Christian Ed. Department

Watch for and plan to be a part of this exciting Sunday School class beginning in February. Join with the HUGS (Helping Us Grow Strong) class in Fellowship Hall to be part of a study entitled “Plan B” by Pete Wilson. Here’s a preview:

Learn how God often does His best work in our most hopeless situations.

What do you do with a shattered dream? Or an unmet expectation? What do you do when your life isn’t turning out the way you thought it would? What do you do when you have to turn to Plan B?

In Plan B, pastor and author Pete Wilson uses real life stories of disappointments and hurts along with the biblical stories of men and women like David, Joseph, and Ruth to help readers come to grips with the truth that they will face situations that in themselves they are completely unable to handle but that in them God is simply trying to get them to surrender their plans so that they can receive His. He identifies our common responses to difficulties and offers hope, helping us to:

- * understand what God might be up to
- * see how surrender helps us to receive God’s plan
- * embrace a community of believers
- * reconcile a God of love with a life of tragedy and suffering

Wilson points readers to the cross as not just the starting line but the centerpiece of our story with God and shares that it is there we turn to our Plan B and find the undeniable relationship between crisis and our hope followed by true spiritual transformation. “God wants to live inside the questions” says Wilson and then reminds us that “the cross is proof that He does not always change the circumstance but that He always has a purpose in every circumstance. He will never let go of us. He will hold us and His cross will be an anchor for us.”

We have Sunday School classes for all ages! Why don’t you and your family make a decision to join one of our classes today. We are excited about the opportunity to have everyone in our church family be a part of Sunday School. Please plan on worshipping Sunday morning through Sunday School. See you there!