

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
Rev. Paul D. Caseman in Alaska

PASTOR’S OFFICE HOURS

Monday - 9 a.m. - noon
Tuesday - 9 a.m. - noon
Wednesday - 9 a.m. - noon

Mailing Address for Anderson’s in Haiti:

Bert & Roberta Anderson
c/o Agape Flight PAP #26035
100 Airport Avenue
Venice, FL 34285

Cornerstone District Office
Christ First UMC
663 Lakeview Ave.
Jamestown, NY 14701

From Pastor Steve’s Desk...

Welcome to *GraceNotes!* This is the newsletter of Panama United Methodist Church. Explore and 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...

Can you feel that breeze?

A breeze is a gentle moving of air from one place to another. Wind, on the other hand, is a breeze that has gotten strong enough to move things (our hair, the flag, dust). It’s something we can feel. I don’t know exactly when moving air goes from breeze to wind, but I would guess that we can feel the difference when it happens. Each of us might have a different opinion when it comes to whether it’s a breeze or a wind. Nevertheless, we all agree that it’s air moving, and whether we acknowledge it or ignore it, it’s still moving.

Some of you may have already guessed where I’m going with this, as we prepare to experience the Christian celebration of Pentecost (June 12). Pentecost was the day in history when the Jewish people would gather for the Festival of Weeks – a time to celebrate the harvest. People came from all parts of the region to celebrate. It was truly an international affair.

Following the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, however, the festival at Pentecost took a disturbing turn. In Acts 2:1-4, Luke writes this, *“On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after Jesus’ resurrection, the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them, and it filled the house where they were meeting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.”*

For Christians, Pentecost has become the day we acknowledge, celebrate, and wonder about the Holy Spirit. But what or who exactly IS the Holy Spirit? In the Star Wars movies, The Force guides the Jedi Knights as they battle the forces of evil. It allows them to be assured of the truth, plan their next

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

move, and be connected with their surroundings. I would not, of course, say that we Christians use the Force, but I provide that as an illustration of the role of the Holy Spirit – to guide, assure us of the truth, allow us to pray, help us connect with God through Jesus Christ, and empower us with spiritual gifts to act in Jesus' name for the church and for God.

My question to you is, "Can you feel that breeze?" Do you listen for the gentle voice of the Holy Spirit? Or is it a wind for you, like it was for the disciples and the festival-goers in Jerusalem?

God has provided us with a Guide, an inner voice that we sometimes acknowledge and sometimes ignore. Sometimes when we are seeking and listening for guidance (Should I take this job? Should we increase our giving? Should I let Abby or Ben go to that party?) and don't hear it, we get discouraged. Sometimes it knocks us over when we aren't even asking! Either way, the Holy Spirit is there as promised by Jesus in John 14:16, and we need to practice hearing what it has to say. Because like a breeze or a wind, we may not be able to see it, but we can see the effect it has.

God knew that we would need DAILY help to lead the kind of life that is pleasing to God, making Christ-centered decisions. Only the fictional Jedi Knights could use the Force, but the Holy Spirit is real and is available to everyone. Our choice is whether to accept the help by first accepting God's grace and mercy through Jesus Christ, the Savior. Without that, the wind might be strong, but you won't even know it's blowing. Catch the Spirit!

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

Nursery Note... There is child care available during the Sunday School hour, for newborns through age 3! There is also nursery care available during Sunday morning worship for children up to kindergarten age. Two nursery helpers are available to care for your child/children so that you can get the most out of the worship experience.

If any adult or youth (7th grade and above) is interested in participating in this ministry, please let Tina Shaver know. Thanks!



Pastor Steve's June Schedule



- 1.....6 p.m.: Praise Team; 6:30 p.m.: Preschool
Graduation; 7 p.m.: Choir; 8 p.m.: Trustees Meeting
- 3/4...Sabbath and Day off; CRM Retreat at Camp Casowasco
- 5.....9 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship/Communion
6 p.m.: Youth
- 6.....9a.m.: Food Pantry
- 7-11..Annual Conference (Rochester)
- 12.....9 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship
- 14.....9 a.m.: UCAN (Gateway Center); 1 p.m.: Visitations
7 p.m.: Band of Brothers Meeting
- 15.....11:30 a.m.: Lunch Bunch; 6 p.m.: Praise Team;
7 p.m.: Choir; 7:30 p.m.: Church Council
- 19.....9 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship/Father's Day
7 p.m.: Baccalaureate
- 21.....9 a.m.: UCAN (Gateway Center); 1 p.m.: Visitations
- 22.....6 p.m.: Praise Team; 7 p.m.: Choir; 7p.m.: 8th Grade
Celebration
- 23.....7 p.m.: Grace Visitation
- 24.....Sabbath and Day Off; 7 p.m.: Graduation
- 25.....8 a.m.: Band of Brothers Breakfast
- 26.....9 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship
- 26-July 2...Team Camp (Camp Findley)

Sunday Morning Worship Team

DON'T FORGET RED RIBBON SUNDAY MISSION PROJECTS

CAMPBELL LABELS for the Red Bird Mission School in Kentucky (also look for labels on Swanson products, Pepperidge Farm, Prego, and V8). Those of you who take the time to cut just the UPC code and logo from the product for us, we thank you.

PENNIES for the Domestic Abuse Program offered by the Salvation Army in Jamestown. As you read in the papers and media, you know that Domestic Abuse is on the increase and it is important to help when we can. Please drop your pennies and other small change in the box in the narthex.



NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS for the Food Pantry - things like toilet paper, soap (all kinds), toothpaste and brushes, shampoo, and anything else that you feel would help those who are having a difficult time making their money go further. The use of the Food Pantry is growing. Thanks for your help!



SAVE THE DATE

You are cordially invited to an open house celebrating
Jerry and Linda Ward's 40 years in ministry.
Sunday, July 10, 2011; 1-4 p.m.
Jamestown Audubon Society
Christine Ward Bancroft and Heidi Marie Miller

We look forward to joining our friends from Panama who
have played such a significant role in this journey.

June

Lay Readers

6/5 - Carol Hay
6/12 - Barb Tordella
6/19 - Tena Dills
6/26 - Bryce Ireland

Ushers

Tory and Adam Irgang
Brynne and Kyle Hinsdale

Nursery Helpers

6/5 - Julia Nelson and Abby Taylor
6/12 - Karen Morton and Lauren Tordella
6/19 - Kelly and Sarah Osborne
6/26 - Jennifer and Claire Apthorpe

July

Lay Readers

7/3 - Ted Passarelli
7/10 - Carm Catanese
7/17 - Dan McGaffick
7/24 - Julie Nagel
7/31 - Don Butler

Ushers

Marge and Craig Vollmer
Pam and Jerry Ireland

Nursery Helpers

7/3 - Barb and Lauren Tordella
7/10 - Carol Hay and Sarah Osborne
7/17 - Stacy and Abby Taylor
7/24 - Thea Kester and Corinne Edwards
7/31 - Julia Nelson and Abby Taylor

Visitation Ministry

June 5

Gerrie Simmons LSS A116	Trudy Anderson
Phyllis Patterson H Green 327	Jean Edwards
Kathy Smith TW 218	Barbara Hart
Van Luther TW 208	Barbara Hart

June 12

Gerrie Simmons LSS A116	Art & Jeanette Osborne
Phyllis Patterson H Green 327	Diane Johnson
Kathy Smith TW 218	Rachel Reardon
Van Luther TW 208	Rachel Reardon

June 19

Gerrie Simmons LSS A116	Julia Nelson
Phyllis Patterson H Green 327	Thea Kester
Kathy Smith TW 218	Lester & Wyona Wevers
Van Luther TW 208	Lester & Wyona Wevers

June 26

Gerrie Simmons LSS A116	Jack & Linda Sturges
Phyllis Patterson H Green 327	Eloise Smith
Kathy Smith TW 218	Bill Peck
Van Luther TW 208	Bill Peck

No tapes for anyone - just a visit and a bulletin

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.



June 2011

Dear Friends at Panama United Methodist Church,

We enjoyed our all too brief visit back home at the end of last month. We wish we could have stayed longer, visited more, and participated in the Memorial Day activities. We feel blessed to be part of a church that is active and alive with passion for our Lord.

Just before we left, the water pump out at the school and health center site quit working. We had to pull the old one out of the well (of course, it fell back into the well and required some extra labor to retrieve it), fix or replace it, (naturally, replace), and subsequently, order a new pump (hasn't arrived yet). Meanwhile, we have to pay for water to be delivered to the school for the students and for the construction site. It was just one of those things that when you budget a project, you need to add extra for the unexpected. We pray that there are no more "extras"!

During the first week of June, a mission team from Advent Lutheran Church (Boca Raton, FL) and Spirit of Joy (Orlando, FL) presented vacation Bible School program for the students at the school. It's always hard to say who has more fun, the kids or the adults!

As you can see from the pictures, the retaining wall and footers are labor intensive projects. There is so much rock just under what little topsoil there is.



This wall is a work of art.



The rebar ties, the dirt moved, the concrete mixed all by hand.

With blessings and thankful hearts for your prayers, your support, and your care.
Bert & Roberta

Youth Update

It's the end of another great year of Youth Group at PUMC. The last couple months have been filled with lots of activities and opportunities for our young people to fellowship together and minister to others. Once again on Easter Sunday, our youth led the early service. It was a great success as several young people stepped out in faith and used their talents for the glory of God.

Adam and Tory honored the graduating seniors with a trip to Aoyama in Erie at the end of May. Please keep these young men in your prayers during the next few weeks of graduation activities - Derek and Kyle Hosier and Chris Enlow.

The "Last Hurrah" of the year will be celebrated at the Ireland's swimming pool on Sunday, June 12, from 2 - 5 p.m. Bring your swimsuit, towel, and a snack to share for an afternoon of splashing, lawn games, and food! Adam and Tory will bring hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks.

Thanks to the congregation for your continued support of youth ministry at PUMC and please pray for safe summers for these teenagers.



Women and Missions (WAM)

The next meeting of *Women and Missions* is Monday, June 13 at 11:45 a.m. at the Rowdy Rooster. Mary Rappole will be

with us to share some of her experiences. WAM is an opportunity to gather informally, have lunch, and be with women who care about others. Please join us!

With Sympathy...

Our sincerest sympathy is extended to the families of:

Brian Range

who passed away on April 27, 2011
and

Kevin White

who passed away on May 2, 2011



May our continued love and prayers be of comfort to you during this time of adjustment to life without your loved one.

You are invited...

You are all invited to attend Pastor Steve's Ordination on Saturday, June 11, at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center beginning at 10 a.m. Following the service (around 2 p.m.), you are also invited to stop in at the home of Wilma Taylor (Pastor Steve's mother) at 339 Iroquois Ave., Lancaster, for a light lunch. Pastor Steve and his family will greet you there around 4 p.m. If you plan to stop in Lancaster, please sign up at the Welcome Table so enough food can be prepared. This is a special day in Pastor Steve's Christian journey.

J.O.Y. Center
(Jesus Others and You)

In 1979, a young mother from our church had the dream to provide a Pre-School for the children of our area. She made a request of our church board to provide the space for such a program, and in the fall of 1979, J.O.Y. Center became a reality for Roberta (Bertie) Karlson and our area. After some time passed, Bertie made the decision to go back to college and become a teacher. We hired a new teacher and the program went on without missing a beat. Susan Crandall was our teacher for a number of years with one or two others for short periods of time. When Susan left for another job, our present teacher, Pat Sobolewski, took over and with the help of her aide, Sandy Crossley, here we are 32 years later.

As most of you know, the Panama Central School is now offering a Pre-K education for all those in the district. Because this program is offered at no cost, we find that it is impossible for the church to continue J.O.Y. Center. So, on June 1 at 6:30 p.m., we will be celebrating the last graduation for our preschool.

This is a sad decision to have to make but we need to be good stewards financially. Now is the time for us to use our time, energy, and finances, and, with God's leading, go in another direction in outreach.

Our sincere thanks to all of you who have supported our program over the years with your time, energy, finances, and most of all, your prayers. We welcome you to join us for our graduation on June 1 as we celebrate 32 years of great preschool education.

My personal thanks to Pat and Sandy for their labor of love for our children and to the members of the Board of Directors of J.O.Y. Center - Susie Davis, Barb Trisket, Joyce Edwards (also our reader and librarian), Denise Hovey, and Pastor Steve for all your support during the years I have been Chairman.

God bless you all and God bless our church as we move forward to new horizons.

Jeanette Osborne

Food Pantry



Our Food Pantry has a new look, thanks to the efforts of many! Now we need a new name!! We are having a contest to come up with something creative! Other pantries have fun names like "Second Helping." Put on your thinking caps and submit your suggestions to the church office.

We also must expand our hours to continue to qualify for one of our grants. Mondays will be our official pantry day with hours from 9-10 a.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m. each week. We will also be open the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9-11 a.m. I am looking for volunteers to work these hours. It is very simple now. All you need to do is open the doors and set whatever is in the freezer and refrigerator out on a table. Please pray about these opportunities to serve the Lord and our community. A sign-up sheet will be on the welcome table.

Tabby Butler

SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

When making Sunday plans this summer, please be reminded that you will have two opportunities for worship:

8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Sunday School will continue to be held at 9 a.m.

These summer worship times will begin on July 3.

Congratulations....

*Special anniversary wishes to
Dick and Lorena Crosby
as they celebrate
65 years together on June 7.
May God continue to bless your marriage.*

Confirmation/Membership Class REMINDER

Don't forget to let the church office know if you are interested in taking the Confirmation/Membership class that Pastor Steve will be offering this June/July.



Graduates

If you have a son or daughter graduating from high school or college this spring, or who graduated earlier in 2011, please let the church office know ASAP.

We would also like to know the future plans of your high school graduates. College graduate information should include degree received and the college attended. We will be honoring the graduates on June 26.

Vacation Bible School: Shake it Up Café

July 10 – July 14, 2011

6 – 8:30 p.m.



We're gearing up for this wonderful opportunity for ministry and outreach this summer! Our leaders are making plans and gathering supplies.

There is a wish list on the table in the entryway for some items that are needed. This will be an ongoing list, as different items will be added as we continue to plan. Please check it regularly and see how you can help!

For our Discovery Time session, we will need between 50 and 100 empty pint clear plastic bottles. These can be water bottles or small pop bottles as long as they are clear. Please remove the labels and put them under the coat rack.

Thanks to those who returned the flyer and indicated your interest in helping. We will be contacting you sometime in June with details. We would still love to have more help - especially during the 6:30-7 p.m. Storytelling time. If you would like to come during that time, please let Stacy know at 782-2461.

Vacation Bible School is a week full of joy and energy! Please continue to pray for the kids that will be coming and for the leaders who are helping!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 7, at 7 p.m.

Thank you!

Stacy Taylor