

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 & 6-6:45 p.m.

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...

Greetings in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus! Welcome to *Grace Notes!* 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...

Spring Rains

The prophet Hosea writes: "So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth." (Hosea 6:3 NASB).

When I graduated from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry with my undergraduate degree in environmental resources and forest engineering in 1992, I thought I knew it all. I had graduated third in my class and was ready to take on the world. And to prove it, three buddies and I did what anyone who had just graduated from college would do: we climbed a mountain. Now, this wasn't just any mountain, see, this was the tallest peak in New York State – Mount Marcy in the Adirondack Park. For one week, we backpacked in, climbed to the peak, and then hiked out. However, even though we made it out alive, and have pictures to prove it, we also learned a bunch of critical stuff that our education in the classroom failed to adequately teach us.

First, when it rains, stuff floods. And it rained. And it rained. And then, it rained some more. By the time we got to the part in the trail that leads to the base of Mount Marcy, the little stream that crosses over the trail was a river filled with silty, brown white-water three feet deep. No bridge. No way around. So...we lifted our backpacks over our heads and, one-by-one, got really wet from the chest down as we got to the other side. When it rains, stuff floods.

The second thing we learned was that snow is still present above 3,000 feet in May. Even though the air temperature was in the 70s, and we were wearing shorts, the snow was still on the trail. The problem was, water was flowing UNDER the snow, creating pockets into which our feet and legs would break, causing some cuts and scrapes on our legs (and cold too!).

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

Finally, we learned that even though rain causes stuff to flood and snow makes harder going on the trail, if we press on, we will eventually find the peak. And we did. Seventeen miles in one day, and we found the peak. Needless to say, when we returned to our base camp and dried out everything we owned, cooked a wonderful dinner, and reflected on the day, we knew we had done something really cool.

This journey of faith on which we find ourselves is something really cool. As Easter people, alive and thriving with the Risen Christ at the center of all we do, and with the Holy Spirit moving and challenging us to press on, we must be inspired to know that the Lord is going before us. The Lord's going before us is as certain as rain flooding stuff or snow still present above 3,000 feet in May in the mountains. It's as certain as the spring rains that come to water everything around us (we are VERY certain!). It's as certain as the dawn, which arrives every day. It's certainly as certain as knowing that we don't know everything there is to know, but willing to press on to know more about ourselves and the Lord.

The prophet was encouraging the people to remember that God has been, is, and will be with them. He was encouraging them to spend time striving to know more about this God, intimately. As we press on toward Pentecost, I encourage you to radically embrace this always-with-us God who takes us through the raging rivers, pulls us out of the pitfalls, and goes before us to lead the way. Along the way, grab someone's hand and help them find Christ and teach them, too, how to press on.

Shalom,
Pastor Steve



Nursery Note... There is now 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 May Schedule



- 1 9 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship; 6 p.m.: Youth
- 2 7 p.m.: Nominations Team Meeting
- 3 10 a.m.: REUNY Meeting in Bath
- 4 6 p.m.: Praise Team; 7 p.m.: Choir
- 5 National Day of Prayer
- 6/7 Sabbath and Day off; Men's Retreat at Camp Findley
- 8 9 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship/Mother's Day
6 p.m.: Youth
- 9-15 Pastor on Vacation
- 13-15 Sabbath/Friends of Findley Work Weekend
- 17 1 p.m.: Visitations; 7 p.m.: Band Concert (PCS)
- 18 11:30 a.m.: Lunch Bunch; 6 p.m.: Praise Team;
7 p.m.: Choir; 7:30 p.m.: Church Council
- 20 Sabbath and Day off
- 21 8 a.m.: Men's Breakfast; 7 p.m.: District Youth
Concert (Jamestown)
- 22 9 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship; 6 p.m.: Youth
- 24 1 p.m.: Visitations; 7:30 p.m.: Chorus Concert (PCS)
- 25 10 a.m.: Dentist; 6 p.m.: Praise Team; 7 p.m.: Choir
8 p.m.: Worship Team Meeting
- 26 Ordination Retreat at Casowasco
- 27 Sabbath and Day off
- 29 9 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship
- 30 Memorial Day
- 31 1 p.m.: Visitations

Sunday Morning Worship Team

May

Lay Readers

5/1 - Cantata
5/8 - Jennifer Apthorpe
5/15 - Fred Crocut
5/22 - Cindy Weise
5/29 - Ted Passarelli

Ushers

Carm and Sam Catanese
Tim and Tena Dills

Nursery Helpers

5/1 - Yvonne Calcaterra and Alyssa Jaeger
5/8 - Barb and Lauren Tordella
5/15 - Carol Hay and Corinne Edwards
5/22 - Stacy and Abby Taylor
5/29 - Thea Kester and Corinne Edwards

June

Lay Readers

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

Ushers

Brynne and Kyle Kinsdale
Tory and Adam Irgang

Nursery Helpers

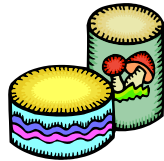
6/5 - Julia Nelson and Abby Taylor
6/12 - Karen Morton and Lauren Tordella
6/19 - Kelly and Sarah Osborne
6/26 - Jennifer and Claire Apthorpe

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. Since we sent 1,200 labels last July, we now have 300 more to send - keep saving.

PENNIES for the Domestic Abuse Program offered by the Salvation Army in Jamestown. The WAM group has been promoting this program for a few years and usually have between \$75 and \$100 to send to them every March. As of now, we have about \$35 to send. If you have been saving your pennies (and other small change) please bring them in—do not roll the pennies. The bank would rather have them unrolled, and we can just drop them in the coin counter.

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!



SUMMER CAMP

Please...REMEMBER, May 4, is the deadline to register for Summer Camp at Camp Findley and still receive the discount.

You may register online or through the mail with your deposit. Panama UM Church will offer camp scholarships to each camper. There are brochures available in the Narthex to look at and decide which week is best for you.

Tape Ministry

May 1

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

Barbara Hart
Trudy Anderson
Everett King
Everett King

May 8

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

Jean Edwards
Art & Jeanette Osborne
Rachel Reardon
Rachel Reardon

May 15

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

Diane Johnson
Lester & Wyona Wevers
Julia Nelson
Julia Nelson

May 22

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

Jack & Linda Sturges
Bill Peck
Thea Kester
Thea Kester

May 29

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

Sharon Passarelli
Everett King
Eloise Smith
Eloise Smith

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.



(News from Dahley Ethiopia, continued)

is tax deductible, and can impact a life forever. Regardless of your choice, we would like to thank you for your support. You have made such an impact on the community of Dahley, giving them hope and a chance to dream.

Joyfully yours,
Tom, Sally, Willson, Emily, Andy, and Sophie

P.S. We will be in the U.S. the beginning of May for a few months ~ if you are in, or coming to, Western NY, stop by our Six Baer's Gift Shoppe in Panama ~ open Saturdays, 10 - 6!

Grace Notes has GONE GREEN

Beginning with the April edition, *Grace Notes* has gone green. In an effort to save on publication costs (yearly postal permit, paper, ink, envelopes, stickers, etc.), we are asking that those of you who can, please use our website (www.panamum.org) to access *Grace Notes*.

There will be copies available each month on the welcome table. Feel free to pick one up. If you, or someone you know, would like to continue receiving *Grace Notes* in the mail, please let Kathy know in the church office or email Pam at alamapi@yahoo.com.

If you have any comments or questions, please send your correspondence to Pam at her email listed above.

News from Dahley Ethiopia

We have had an exciting and eventful year in Dahley this year; a year that you helped make a reality. Here are some high-lights:

- * Last year only half the children in our program were attending public school; this year all of our original children are in school.
- * Four children in crucial need have joined our program, and will be attending public school next year.
- * In addition to the 30 children in our program (yes, we added 10 more), we serve roughly 30 other children each week, through a twice a week library program that teaches English, Health Education, art, music, and more.
- * We worked one on one with the teachers, teaching them English and teaching methods.
- * We further developed our program, this year incorporating a classical based curriculum donated by LivingBooks.com, and a formal English program.
- * We had interns here for three months who worked one on one with the teachers and students, implementing the new programming. We also had a nurse for two weeks to jump start our health education program.
- * We opened a library - it's been a delight to watch the children's introduction to the world of books.
- * The program now runs 5 days a week.
- * We serve over 500 meals a month!
- * Habte's House was completed in 2010.
- * We opened our community center housing a library and health education center.

PHEW! Yes, we are amazed as well! We hope you've enjoyed following our journey on Facebook (Six Baer Essentials).

This is our partnership renewal time; we would like to invite you to join us for another year and we will only ask this one time :). Partnerships are \$250 a year. To set up monthly contributions online, go to baeressentials.org and click the "donate" button, or for onetime donations, send checks to *Six Baer Essentials, PO Box 310, Panama, NY 14767*. If \$250 is not in your budget this year, please consider making a donation of any amount at this time. Every dollar goes directly to the work,

(continued on next page)

With Sympathy...



Our sincerest sympathy is extended to the families of:

Rita-jean Page Morton
Grandmother of Clint Apthorpe
March 29, 2011

and

Corinne M. Digirolamo
Mother of Carmella Catanese
April 8, 2011

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

MULTI-MEDIA PORTABLE PROJECTOR

We now have a Multi-Media Portable Projector for you to use. It will be great for Sunday School classes, Bible Studies, Youth, meeting presentations, etc. Please let the church office know a day or two ahead of time to make sure it is available the day you want to use it.



Women and Missions (WAM)

The next meeting of *Women and Missions* is Monday, May 9, at 11:45 a.m. at the Rowdy Rooster. *WAM* is an opportunity for women to have lunch, reflect on a short devotion, and engage in conversation. This month,

Sally Naetzker Baer, fresh from Ethiopia, will be our speaker. It's informal and fun and always uplifting to be with women who care about others. Please join us in welcoming Sally back home!



A Note from Charlie...

In case you haven't heard, the sanctuary is going to be painted, beginning May 2. I can't believe it's been 16 years so I guess it's time for some sprucing up! It will take most of the week so please be patient.

Maybe while they have the ladders and scaffolding up, the painters will find the rest of the Easter eggs that Abby was so diligently looking for following Youth Group a couple of weeks ago. I've been looking, Abby, but I haven't found any more.

What wonderful experiences I had during the last few days...so many opportunities to worship during Holy Week. I could hardly find a seat on Easter Sunday! I am really looking forward to hearing the choir's Easter Celebration during worship on May 1. Why don't you join me? I'll save you a seat!

*Love,
Charlie*

Evangelism and Outreach Team

There will be an Evangelism and Outreach Team meeting on Tuesday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m. Agenda items include the possibility of a parade float or a booth for Memorial Day festivities in the village.

BENEFIT OPPORTUNITIES

MAY 1 - for Shawn Reardon...Spaghetti Dinner at Murdock's in Sherman - 1 to 6 p.m. Shawn had a stroke before Christmas and the proceeds from the benefit will help in paying for Shawn's medical expenses. Tickets are \$6 per person or \$25 per family.

MAY 22 - for Dan Burgeson (Tia's dad)...Vietnam Vets Association (41 Bigelow Ave., Jamestown) - 1 p.m. Dan is in Texas undergoing a bone marrow transplant for multiple myeloma. Tickets are \$8.

New Membership and Baptism Experience

Pastor Steve will soon be starting a new members and baptism experience for those who wish to become professing members of the church, who would like to be baptized, or who would like to learn more about the church you attend. Adult classes will be held this spring and youth classes in the fall.

Please let the church office know if you are interested. Day and time still to be determined.

IN CONCERT

<<<<<**SOUL PROVIDER**>>>>>

Thursday, May 5
7 p.m.

Panama United Methodist Church

Sponsored by:
The Harmony Senior Citizens

A love offering will be received.

(www.soulproviderquartet.com)



FRIENDS and FAMILY work weekend
at
CAMP FINDLEY
May 13 and 14



BAND OF BROTHERS

It has been a busy month around the church. Many of the men of the group have been involved. Many of us took part in the Lenten Bible Study by Adan Hamilton, "24 Hours That Changed the World". It truly opened my eyes to many things that our LORD did for us in the last 24 hours of HIS life.

We were asked to lead the Saturday evening Walk to the Crosses service. It may have been raining but that did not dampen our spirits. What an awesome time we had walking up the hill, carrying our burdens (represented by stones) and laying them at the cross. We then went to the church and continued the service. I would like to THANK all who helped make this night possible. I won't name names for fear of leaving someone out (the LORD knows) so THANK YOU...THANK YOU!!!

We will be going to Camp Findley on May 6 and 7 for a men's retreat. Randy Snavelly, from FLN, will be the special guest speaker. There will be a pig roast on Friday night. I would like to encourage you, if at all possible, to join us. We all need to gather together as the men of GOD'S church here in Panama to fellowship with others of like mind, to recharge.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 10, at 7 p.m. The next men's breakfast will be Saturday, May 26, at 8 a.m. Remember...all men are welcomed and encouraged to join us.

REMINDER: If YOU or ANYONE you know needs a hand doing anything, please let us know!

In HIS Service,
Howie Wheeler

Because of your faithfulness...

Because of your faithful giving, we have received a total of \$18,488.18 through April 24 for the general fund. Additional monies received were designated as follows:

Plate cash and donations	939.16
Sunday School	286.00
Missions	625.00
JOY Center	110.00
Anderson Support	100.00
Camping Scholarships	220.00
Food Pantry	50.00
White Gift	505.00
Music Ministry	28.92
Flowers	217.00
UMCOR	130.00
Library	30.00
Initial offering envelopes	26.00

Balance in Trustees' Capital Fund Account - \$14,357.85.

Budget receipts required for the month: \$20,475.68

Actual receipts for the month: \$20,312.12

Excess (deficit) for the month: (\$163.56)

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



The hills are alive with THE SOUND OF MUSIC, (a couple of hills over in Clymer, that is!). Our very own Brynne Hinsdale, has the lead part (Maria) in the musical at Clymer Central School. It will be presented at 7 p.m. May 13 & 14 and May 20 & 21. Tickets are \$8 each or \$25

for a group of 4. Tickets are available at Neckers, Clymer Library, French Creek Store, and the Rowdy Rooster.