

**CHURCH STAFF**

Reverend Steven M. Taylor, Pastor  
Kathy Peck, Program Coordinator/Secretary  
Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse  
Julie Nagel, Music Director/Accompanist  
Krista Odell, Accompanist  
Art Osborne, Custodian  
Benjamin Taylor, Sidewalk Snow Removal Safety Manager  
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 Andersons 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 Panama UMC’s Grace Notes! This is your source for all things Panama United Methodist. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and find it a great resource and inspiration!

**Let’s Be Kingdom-Builders Together**

Over the last few months, the Holy Spirit has been really stirring in me the desire to lead us, as a church, in seeking a greater vision for the Panama UMC. In our corporate prayer times, and in my personal devotions and prayer, we have been seeking a new level of hunger for His Word and will. I’ve been asking the question, “Father, where do you want us to be heading together as Kingdom-builders? How should we proceed today and tomorrow to make the impact you desire in our communities?”

Part of the answer to those questions is our current emphasis on exploring and learning, in worship and in small groups, what it means to use our spiritual gifts. So far, we’ve explored 8 spiritual gifts and will eventually tackle 23! In addition, we’ve heard some great, inspiring testimonies from people in our congregation who are, right now, answering God’s call to serve in ministry using their specific spiritual gifts.

In order for us to be positioned to spread the gospel message of salvation and hope to our families, communities, and the world, each of us must answer the call from the Holy Spirit to serve in our areas of giftedness and passion. Each of us has different gifts, personalities, and passions, by God’s grace. Combine those together in you, and you have the recipe for service in Jesus’ name – positioned right where God can and will use you to glorify God and edify the church.

This time of growth and challenge is a critical piece of the larger vision God is illuminating to us. As the pastor, part of my job is to be listening intently to the Holy Spirit and to be casting vision for the present and future, honoring the traditions and saints that have been faithfully following Jesus in this body of Christ for well over 150 years. In the coming months, be ready

for more exciting and challenging times as we seek the Lord in all things. Be prepared to move outside the comfort zone to the place where we are vulnerable before the Lord and ready to continue to seek His path in ministry. All this, sisters and brothers, for the sake of sharing the Good News that Jesus is Lord of all! This is an exceedingly exciting time in the life of the church...let's be stirred as Kingdom-builders together.

Shalom,  
Pastor Steve



**PRAYER TIME**

In case you are not aware of this - Prayer Time has been changed to Monday evenings from 7-8 p.m. (instead of Wednesday evenings). This is to accommodate those who have other Wednesday evening commitments and would like the opportunity to join the group to pray for our

church, our community, and each other. We hope to see you there!

**PRAYER CHAIN**

Would you be ready to pray when notified of a need and pass that request on to the next member? Your prayer request will be passed down to 20 plus others who will pray, and continue to pray, about your situation. Become part of the Prayer Chain.

If you would like to pass along a prayer request, or if you would like to be a part of this network of prayers, please call Jean Edwards (782-2800) or Susie Davis (782-4611).

*What if....*

*you wake up today with only the things that you thanked God for yesterday??*

**Pastor Steve's February Schedule**



- 1 6 p.m.: Praise Team; 7 p.m.: Choir;  
8 p.m.: Trustee Team Meeting
- 2 7 p.m.: SS Teachers Meeting; Ski Night
- 3-4 Sabbath/Day Off
- 5 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship; 11:30 a.m.: Lunch;  
4:30pm: Confirmation Class
- 6 7 p.m.: Prayer Time
- 7 1 p.m.: Visitations; 7 p.m.: NCD Team
- 8 6 p.m.: Praise Team; 7 p.m.: Choir
- 9 9:30 a.m.: LDT (East Randolph); Ski Night
- 10-11 Sabbath/Day Off
- 12 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship
- 13 6 p.m.: Worship Team Meeting; 7 pm.: Prayer Time
- 14 1 p.m.: Visitations; 7 p.m.: Band of Brothers Gathering
- 15 12 p.m.: Lunch Bunch; 6 p.m.: Praise Team; 7 p.m.: Choir;  
7:45 p.m.: Church Council
- 16 Ski Night
- 17-18 Sabbath/Day Off
- 19 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship; 4:30p.m.: Confir-  
mation Class; 6 p.m.: Youth Worship at Bemus Point
- 20 OFFICE CLOSED: President's Day; 7 p.m.: Prayer Team
- 21 1 p.m.: Visitations
- 22 7 p.m.: Ash Wednesday Worship
- 23 Ski Night; 7 p.m.: Grace Visitation Team Meeting
- 24-25 Sabbath/Day Off
- 25 8 a.m.: Band of Brothers Breakfast;  
Ski Trip to Holiday Valley
- 26 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship
- 27 7 p.m.: Prayer Team
- 28 1 p.m.: Visitations
- 29 6 p.m.: Praise Team; 7 p.m.: Choir

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



**.....PUMC OPPORTUNITIES.....**

1. Sign up for flowers on the chart near the nursery.  
Check in the office for more information.
2. Let Tina know you'd like to try a Sunday in the nursery.
3. If you like baking, sign up at the welcome table to bring cookies for Fellowship time on a Sunday.
4. The Christian Ed Team is always looking for substitute teachers.
  5. If you can "make a joyful noise," there's always room for you in the choir loft.
  6. Come to a Sunday School class.
7. Let Tabby know you'd like to help with the Food Pantry.

These are just a few suggestions...hope you pick one and try it!

**Sunday Morning Worship Team**

**February**

**Lay Readers**

2/5 - Fred Croscut  
2/12 - Marge Vollmer  
2/19 - Shelly Croscut  
2/26 - Carol Hay

**Ushers**

Ben Taylor, Abby Taylor  
Devin Ireland, Corinne Edwards

**Nursery Helpers**

2/5 - Jennifer and Claire Apthorpe  
2/12 - Barb and Lauren Tordella  
2/19 - Tina Shaver and Logan Hickman  
2/26 - Stacy and Abby Taylor

**March**

**Lay Readers**

3/4 - Lee Crosby  
3/11 - Tory Irgang  
3/18 - Bill Peck  
3/25 - Ricky Eggleston

**Ushers**

Ed Trisket, Charlie Loveless  
Jerry Ireland, Bill Peck

**Nursery Helpers**

3/4 - Julia Nelson and Sarah Osborne  
3/11 - Thea Kester and Corinne Edwards  
3/18 - Karen Morton and Lauren Tordella  
3/25 - Kelly and Sarah Osborne

*With Sympathy to the families of....*



*Arlene Hotchkiss*

Sister of Donna Peterson  
Died 1-3-12

&

*Jackie Swanson*

Sister of Patricia Dole  
and Michael Sard  
Died 1-6-12

The love of your church family is with you during this time of loss and remembrance. Our prayers will continue to be with you as you go through this difficult time.



**NURSERY NOTE**

There is Nursery care available during Sunday morning worship for children from birth to age 4. Two nursery helpers are available to care for your child/children so you can get the most out of the worship experience.

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

If you are scheduled for Nursery and find you cannot fulfill your Nursery obligation, please find someone to switch with you and let Tina know of the change. THANKS!!

We would like to include you and your family members on our birthday and anniversary list. If you have been around "for awhile" and you've noticed we don't have you on the list, we need to update your information. If you're "new," we need your information, as well. Please leave a note in the Grace Notes mailbox in the hall with your family's information.

*Footnotes from the Library...*

Several new DVD's have been added to the Library collection. Please take a minute to read a quick synopsis of each one...and then feel free to check one out to enjoy at your leisure!

**BELIEVE IN ME** - Politics, broken promises, and indifference threaten to destroy the hopes and dreams of Coach Clay Driscoll. When he rises to the challenge and finds the strength and inspiration within himself to break the mold, he creates an exciting new era for his "girls," the Lady Cyclones, in this small Oklahoma town. Based on a true story.

**SHORT TRACK** - Racing dreams have propelled the lives of the Beckett family. Blake Beckett wants a chance at the national championship and his hearing impaired son wants a chance to race. Then young Indy Johanson shows up with the sponsorship and ideas to make it all happen if Blake can let go of the wheel and become the driving force instead of the driver.

**BEAUTIFUL DREAMER** - Claire Kelly's much loved WWII pilot husband survived his B-24 crash but lost his memory. Claire is determined to find him but never guesses that finding him will require tremendous courage, understanding, loyalty, and the possible sacrifice of his ever coming home.

Please stop in to the Library on a Sunday morning or anytime you happen to be in the building. It's user friendly, and we're working on some updates to our system. Let us know if you're looking for something special or if you have any ideas to offer. The Library is a great place to sit and reflect...and it's here for YOU to use.

The **EASTER EXPERIENCE** is coming to Panama UMC

Starting Tuesday, February 29, for six weeks, Pastor Steve and Howie Wheeler will be leading us in a unique, video-driven group study that brings the passion and resurrection of Jesus to life. This Easter Experience will prepare our hearts and lives for the celebration of Easter. The group study will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. each Tuesday (2/28 - 4/3). The cost of materials is \$10, and includes a participant's guide and devotional. Scholarships are available so everyone can take advantage of this opportunity. If interested, sign-ups are available at the Welcome Table.

**See you there!**

**Because of your faithfulness...**

Because of your faithful giving, we have received a total of \$18,652.44 through January 31, 2012 for the general fund. The weekly giving amount for 2012 is \$5,344.96 to meet our spending plan. Through January, we had a weekly average of \$3,730.49.

Designated monies received were as follows:

Sunday School	106.50
Missions	1,325.25
Village of Hope/Haiti	100.00
Camping	55.00
Food Pantry	290.00
Initial Offering	100.00
White Gift	41.00
Music Ministry	159.56
Trustee Fund	\$12,506.35

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

**JANUARY ATTENDANCE FIGURES**

(Weekly Average)

Sunday School - 61  
Sunday Morning Worship - 151

**BAND OF BROTHERS**  
(United Methodist Men of Panama)

Whoa! What a winter so far. It is hard to know what season we are in, on any given day.

A few months ago, the guys were talking about taking a trip somewhere. We weren't quite sure where - just a trip. Well, the time went by; and we talked about it again but, again, nothing. We all wanted to do something but could not come up with a time.

Well, at our December 13 meeting, we brought it up again. We all pulled out our calendars and started looking at each Saturday from January through March. We were of the mind-set that we had to go on a Saturday. Someone mentioned January 16, Martin Luther King Day. After looking at our date books, it was decided that was the perfect day. **We moved outside the box...outside of our comfort zones.**

This brings to mind the verses from Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, verses 1-15. The writer tells us that "there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens."

Well, we did go on our trip to Cabela's on January 16. We met at the church at 7 a.m. There were 28 of us who carpooled. We stopped in Meadville at Cracker Barrel and had a great breakfast (and sang Happy Birthday to Bobby G). Then it was non-stop until we came upon a wreck. The detour was fun and by then, we could smell Cabela's. There was no stopping us now. We were like a bunch of little kids on Christmas morning. There was no way you could have wiped the smiles off those faces (not sure who had the biggest smile - it was close between Pastor Steve and Carl D.). There were more than a few that had a serious look. I just stayed out of the way (ha-ha!). Needless to say, God was so good. We truly had a wonderful day of fellowship and witness for our Lord.

I don't think it is too early to start planning our next adventure. After all, "there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens."

May God bless you!  
Your brother in Christ Jesus, our Lord,  
Howie Wheeler

## *Visitation Ministry*

### **February 5**

Gerrie Simmons LSS A116	Jack/Linda Sturges
David Sturges LSS A175	Jack/Linda Sturges
Phyllis Patterson HGreen 327	Thea Kester
Kathy Smith TW 218	Trudy Anderson
Van Luther TW 208	Trudy Anderson
Bev Wilder TW 138	Trudy Anderson

### **February 12**

Gerrie Simmons LSS A116	Sharon Passarelli
David Sturges LSS A175	Sharon Passarelli
Phyllis Patterson HGreen 327	Diane Johnson
Kathy Smith TW 218	Jean Edwards
Van Luther TW 208	Jean Edwards
Bev Wilder TW 138	Jean Edwards

### **February 19**

Gerrie Simmons LSS A116	Julia Nelson
David Sturges LSS A175	Julia Nelson
Phyllis Patterson HGreen 327	Bill Peck
Kathy Smith TW 218	Eloise Smith
Van Luther TW 208	Eloise Smith
Bev Wilder TW 138	Eloise Smith

### **February 26**

Gerrie Simmons LSS A116	Art/Jeanette Osborne
David Sturges LSS A116	Art/Jeanette Osborne
Phyllis Patterson HGreen 327	Diane Johnson
Kathy Smith TW 218	Lester/Wyona Wevers
Van Luther TW 208	Lester/Wyona Wevers
Bev Wilder TW 138	Lester/Wyona Wevers

**No tapes for anyone - just a visit and a bulletin**

### **PUMC 2012 Sermon Series**

Race for your Place... Where Do You Fit?  
Hebrews 12:1-2

It's not too late to join us at 10:15 a.m. every Sunday for the next few weeks to find out what YOUR Spiritual Gift is.

## **Safe Sanctuaries**

Panama United Methodist Church is part of, and participates in, the Upper New York Annual Conference, which establishes guidelines for the member churches. Safe Sanctuaries is the name given the resolution which requires all local churches to establish a Safe Sanctuaries Committee which is charged with developing a policy to:

1. Provide for the safety of the children, youth, and vulnerable adults who participate in the ministries of our church
2. Provide safeguards for adults who work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults
3. Hold accountable all those who minister in name of Jesus Christ
4. Be diligent and good stewards of God's resources.

The policy developed by each church must include standards for recruiting, screening, and selecting paid and volunteer workers within the church. The policy is also to include specific details related to workers' interactions with individuals and small groups, record keeping, and reporting of information.

Our church has established the Safe Sanctuaries Committee in accordance with the Conference Resolution to include representatives of all groups in ministry with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. At this time, the SSC consists of Ted Passarelli, Carm Catanese, Jan Wheeler, Emily Baker, Dan McGaffick, Pastor Steve Taylor, and Carol Hay (Chairperson). The SSC will meet throughout the next several months to prayerfully consider and establish procedures and policies as required by the Conference's Safe Sanctuaries resolution. It is our goal to comply with the resolution by having our Safe Sanctuaries Policy in place by December 2012. The SSC will keep the church membership aware of discussions through the church newsletter and welcomes questions and conversation from anyone during this process. Please keep this committee in your prayers.

### **Evangelism and Outreach Team**

If you are a member of the E and O Team, a meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30pm.

## February Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

(Christian Education, con't. from page 9)

*Press Publication.* Discussion is light and to the point. This study is a great way to read God's word and gain a little more insight into each verse. Please join us! We are located at the end of the Narthex across from the Sanctuary.


Beginning February 5, the class, led by Denny and Cindy Furlow, will begin a study entitled The Miracle of Life Change. Change is possible! This study by Chip Ingram equips us to experience the life that God desires us to live. Allow God to bring out your best and more! We meet downstairs at the end of the hall.

H.U.G.S (Helping Us Grow Strong), led by George and Trudy Anderson, meets in the Fellowship Hall. The aim of this study, using the book 24 Hours That Changed the World (Adam Scott), is to help you better understand the events that occurred during the last 24 hours of Jesus' life and allow you to reflect upon the meaning of these events for your life. This study will last for six weeks and then we will follow with the author's new study, Final Words, during Lent.


The Young Adult Class is beginning a study called Breaking the Code. The book of Revelation contains passages of great beauty and comfort, as well as passages that strike the casual reader as bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. Join us as we "unwrap" this powerful and puzzling book. Kyle and Brynne Hinsdale are the teachers of this class that meets upstairs across from the Library.

Howie Wheeler is beginning a new Sunday School class for anyone who wants to explore Spiritual Gifts. This class will parallel the message that Pastor Steve gives each week as we study spiritual gifts and work towards improving our church's minimum factor for the Natural Church Development Program. We are meeting in the church Library.

In reading through all of this, we hope something will peek your curiosity enough to join a class. You'll be glad that you did!

- 
- 1 Joel Keefer, Dennis Scheller
  - 2 Kevin Rowe, Marissa Trisket
  - 3 Eric Scolton, Anna VandeVelde
  - 4 Willson Baer, Meghan Gooch, Howie Wheeler, Sheila White
  - 5 Jeff Enlow, Bill Schneider
  - 6 Carl Davis III, Brenda Ireland
  - 8 Alexandra Baer, Gail Dallas
  - 11 Anna Cartwright
  - 12 Devin Ireland, Richard King, Paige Munson
  - 13 Trudy Anderson, Emily Baker, Joe Edwards
  - 14 Marissa Topolski
  - 15 David Barr
  - 16 Haley Holmberg, Bob Tordella
  - 18 Dean Sprague
  - 19 Natalie Odell, **Bruce & Joanne Scolton**
  - 20 Diane Johnson, Adam Rupczyk
  - 21 Scotty James, Darren Newberg, Wyona Wevers
  - 24 Corinne Edwards, Joan Hinderer, Kristin Johnson, Karen Moynihan
  - 25 Ruth Muzzy, Sara Waller
  - 26 John Elfvin, Bryce Ireland, Emily King, Hannah Schneider
  - 27 Chase Hartnett, Marcia King
  - 28 Zoe Kester, Jon Wood
  - 29 Briana Catanese

A look ahead to March...

- 1 Linda Nobbs, Dylan Peck, **Keith & Cindy Miller**
  - 2 Curtis Wood
  - 5 Courtney Reardon
  - 8 Holly Hopkins, Jennifer Sard
  - 9 Sally Baer, Gregory Ireland
- 

### Women and Missions (WAM)

W.A.M. met on January 9. We laughed, shared, chatted, and ate our lunches. We reviewed year 2011!!!



In our review of the year, it was noted that God has richly blessed our endeavors! We had \$225.65 from the previous W.A.M. group and we have been putting money in our little Mission Basket each time we meet so we were able to support the following projects:

- \$150.00 - Carol Hay, Nicaraguan Mission Trip
- \$50.00 - Baer's in Ethiopia, Chickens
- \$50.00 - Mary Rappole, Haiti
- \$50.00 - Pastor Steve, Haiti
- \$75.00 - Pennies to Salvation Army's Battered Women
- \$375.00 - Total to missions on 2011

We continue to collect postage stamps for Rick and Mary Alice Boller, who, in turn, give them to a church mission group in Florida. The Campbell's Soup labels are for the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky and we send cards to encourage people.

Looking forward to what God has for us to do in 2012.

PRAISE GOD!  
Jean Edwards and Jeanette Osborne

P.S. Our next meeting is February 13 at the Rowdy Rooster - 11:45 a.m. COME and join us!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST



We would like to invite everyone to join us on February 12 for breakfast! We'll enjoy pancakes, sausages, muffins, coffee, juice, and real homemade maple syrup! We will start serving at 8:30 a.m. and tentatively finish up around 9 a.m. so that we can enjoy Sunday School after breakfast. What a great opportunity to invite someone you know to come for breakfast and try out our new Sunday School classes.

Hope everyone will join us!

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

George Anderson and Carm Catanese  
Co-Superintendents

Please join with us in support of Christian Education. We have a class for everyone! There are children's classes, Nursery through 6th grade, and Junior and Senior High classes. We also have several adult classes that are enjoying studies that encourage us in our daily walk and Christian growth. Below is a brief description of each class. We hope that you will make a choice today to join one of these classes.

Live, Love and Laugh, led by Jack and Linda Sturges, is starting a new study called Taking a Look at Plan B. We all have times that we wonder where God is and why we struggle with life, only to find out that we were the one who has moved away from what God had willed for us. Come and join us as we look at what the Father has in store for us. Who knows - maybe it will help you find your spiritual gifts. Our class is upstairs across from the Memorabilia Room.

The Senior Sunday School class, led by Stacy Taylor, dives into the Bible using a study book from *A Union Gospel* (Continued on page 10)



### SAVE THE DATE...

*Campfire for Christ*  
*August 3, 4, and 5*