

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, Snow Removal
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 *GraceNotes!* 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 me begin by saying THANK YOU to the Panama United Methodist family for all your cards, gifts, and Christmas greetings over the last few weeks. We pray God’s blessings for you as enter this New Year!

I just love the start of a New Year! It gives us time to reflect on the year that has just ended, and time to look forward to seeing what new things are in store for the year to come. I have never been one to make New Year’s resolutions, but I really love to start fresh each year with some new ideas. I hope you see this New Year as a fresh start for some aspect of your life.

In the book of Revelation, Jesus is described as the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet, and omega is the last. Jesus is the first and the last. In a way, each new year we spend as Christians is an alpha and omega...a beginning and an end. There’s alpha time to get excited about the ministries of the church, the opportunities that God will give us to love others, and the prospect of spending time together worshipping, having fun, and learning about Christ and our faith. There’s omega time to remember the great ministry with which we’ve been involved, the fun we’ve had, and the faithfulness of those who have gone before us.

Starting January 8, we will have some *alpha* time. The focus of our worship and discipleship will be the spiritual gifts we have. We will especially be discovering (or re-discovering) and offering our spiritual gifts for God’s kingdom use. We all have an idea of what gifts we have to use in ministry for Jesus...but we may need some focus to allow us to serve effectively and to fit into the mission and ministry of the Panama UMC and our community.

We will spend some time searching ourselves to find out what gives us passion... motivation...what we LOVE to do. For

some, that gift is encouraging others. For others, it's serving, music, preaching, teaching, leading, or being a mentor. What is it for you? Do you know how you will serve from where you are? How will you give all you have to the work of Christ? How will it fit with your brothers and sisters serving by your side? As more people come to Panama UMC, how will we invite them to serve along side us?

Resolutions are fine...fresh starts are great! Life in Christ, empowered by and using our spiritual gifts is eternally refreshing and our source for joy and peace in the midst of a world filled with pain and suffering. That's the message we can share with others who are working and living side-by-side with us each day. Tell them about the Alpha and Omega this year – about the beginning that never ends. Today is the first day in the rest of your life – isn't that awesome!

Thank you for a wonderful 2011! I am excited about the possibilities and opportunities God will give us in 2012!

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

In case you are not aware of this - Prayer Time has been changed to Monday evenings from 7 to 8p.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!



ALSO.....The Prayer Chain list is being updated! We have the names of some new members but do not want to leave anyone out who desires to be a part of this vital ministry. 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+ others who will pray, and continue to pray, about your situation.

If you would like to be a part of this network of prayers, please get in touch with Jean Edwards or call the PUMC office.

Pastor Steve's January Schedule



- 1-2 Vacation
- 3 1 p.m.: Visitations; 6 p.m.: SPRC Team Mtg.
7 p.m.: NCD Team Mtg.
- 4 6 p.m.: Praise Team; 7 p.m.: Choir
8 p.m.: Trustee Team Mtg.
- 5 7 p.m.: Sunday School Teachers Mtg.; Ski Night
- 6-7 Sabbath/ Day Off
- 8 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship; 11:30 a.m.: NCD
Kick Off Lunch; 4:30 p.m.: Confirmation Class
- 9 6 p.m.: Worship Team Mtg.; 7 p.m.: Prayer Team
- 10 1 p.m.: Visitations; 7 p.m.: Band of Brothers' Gathering
- 11 6 p.m.: Praise Team; 7 p.m.: Choir
- 12 9:30 a.m.: LDT (Salamanca); Ski Night
- 13 Sabbath
- 14 9 a.m.: Worship Team Breakfast and Undecorating Party
- 15 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship; Praise Team at
Frewsburg Rest Home
- 16 Band of Brothers' Trip to Cabela's
- 17 10 a.m.: REUNY Mtg. (Farmington)
- 18 12 p.m.: Lunch Bunch; 6 p.m.: Praise Team; 7 p.m.: Choir;
7:30 p.m.: Church Council
- 19 Ski Night
- 20 Sabbath
- 21 4 p.m.: District Epiphany Party
- 22 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship; 4:30 p.m.: Confir-
mation Class; 6 p.m.: Youth Worship at Gateway Center
- 23 7 p.m.: Prayer Team
- 24 1 p.m.: Visitations
- 25 6 p.m.: Praise Team; 7 p.m.: Choir
- 26 Ski Night
- 27 Sabbath
- 28 8 a.m.: Band of Brothers' Breakfast; Ski Trip to
Holiday Valley
- 29 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Sunday School/Worship; Crossmen/Soul
Provider Concert
- 30 7 p.m.: Prayer Team
- 31 1 p.m.: Visitations

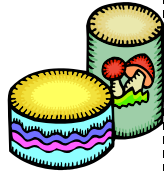
DON'T FORGET RED RIBBON SUNDAY
MISSION PROJECTS

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 who 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

January

Lay Readers

- 1/1 - Ben Taylor
- 1/8 - Tina Shaver
- 1/15 - Doug Hay
- 1/22 - Tabby Butler
- 1/29 - Jeff Ireland

Ushers

Pat and Kristy Catanese
Joel and Jessica Keefer

Nursery Helpers

- 1/1 - Stacy and Abby Taylor
- 1/8 - Thea Kester and Corinne Edwards
- 1/15 - Julia Nelson and Sarah Osborne
- 1/22 - Karen Morton and Lauren Tordella
- 1/29 - Kelly and Sarah Osborne

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

With Sympathy to the family of...



Irwin Bensink

Brother of Everett Bensink
Passed away December 18, 2011

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.

Special thanks to Jeanette Osborne for taking care of the daily office duties that we take for granted while Kathy has been "out of commission." Having someone in the office to keep things running smoothly has been most appreciated!

If you are "fairly new" to the PUMC, 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. Please let Kathy know in the office or leave a note in the Grace Notes mailbox in the hall with your family's information.



Painting at the clinic

The Corner Office
(actually, the Lab)



And of course, the kindergarten students were precious!



January 2012

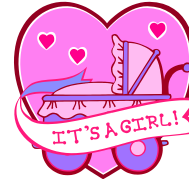
Dear Friends at Panama United Methodist Church,

We feel so blessed to be home for the holidays, to participate in the Christmas Eve Service as well as the Sunday worship services. We never realized how much we took the church services for granted (No problem to miss this Sunday; they'll be there next Sunday, right?) We look forward to hearing Pastor Steve's message on line. While we do get to worship while we are in Haiti, we treasure the connections with the Panama United Methodist Church and appreciate the friendships and support you all have given to us.

We will be working on the clinic full time these next few weeks. The dedication ceremony is scheduled for January 25. We have invited many of the local dignitaries (the local health department, the mayor, the local pastors) and local people from the medical community. We plan to have a service in the chapel, followed by a reception in the clinic. We're hoping the paint will be dry in time!

We have no new pictures to share as I am actually writing this from Wall Street before we leave for Haiti. The pictures on the next page are from just before Christmas.

May the new year bring blessings and His grace to all,
Bert and Roberta



BABY NEWS!!!!

Cameron Allison Short

Born to
Ryan and Jen (Tremblay) Short
December 14, 2011

Grandparents are
Dale and Genesis Tremblay

Congratulations to you on the birth
of this child that God has entrusted to you.

Blessings to you all.

BAND OF BROTHERS (United Methodist Men)

The last two months seem to have flown right by. Christmas has passed, and winter is upon us.

Many of the guys have been out in GOD's creation hunting. Many have been very successful. We have had some great conversations of these hunting adventures.

With that being said, the group is sponsoring a day trip to Cabela's near Wheeling, WV.

The plan is to go on Martin Luther King day, which is Monday, January 16, 2012. Check the welcome table for a sign up sheet. I am trying to arrange a bus, though it will depend on how many sign up to go. This is for all the men in the church and the trip is planned as an outreach. We would encourage you to invite someone to go with you that doesn't go to our church. I would also encourage fathers and sons to go.

Keep watch for more information. Check your Sunday bulletins. I will have more details soon.

Your brother in Christ Jesus Our Lord,
Howie

Visitation Ministry

January 1

Gerrie Simmons LSS A116
David Sturges LSS A175
Phyllis Patterson HGreen 327
Ruth Ostrander HGreen 316
Kathy Smith TW 218
Van Luther TW 208
Bev Wilder TW 138

Jack/Linda Sturges
Jack/Linda Sturges
Everett King
Everett King
Thea Kester
Thea Kester
Thea Kester

January 8

Gerrie Simmons LSS A116
David Sturges LSS A175
Phyllis Patterson HGreen 327
Ruth Ostrander HGreen 316
Kathy Smith TW 218
Van Luther TW 208
Bev Wilder TW 138

Sharon Passarelli
Sharon Passarelli
Trudy Anderson
Trudy Anderson
Diane Johnson
Diane Johnson
Diane Johnson

January 15

Gerrie Simmons LSS A116
David Sturges LSS A175
Phyllis Patterson HGreen 327
Ruth Ostrander HGreen 316
Kathy Smith TW 218
Van Luther TW 208
Bev Wilder TW 138

Jean Edwards
Jean Edwards
Julia Nelson
Julia Nelson
Bill Peck
Bill Peck
Bill Peck

January 22

Gerrie Simmons LSS A116
David Sturges LSS A175
Phyllis Patterson HGreen 327
Ruth Ostrander HGreen 316
Kathy Smith TW 218
Van Luther TW 208
Bev Wilder TW 138

Lester/Wyona Wevers
Lester/Wyona Wevers
Eloise Smith
Eloise Smith
Art/Jeanette Osborne
Art/Jeanette Osborne
Art/Jeanette Osborne

January 29

Gerrie Simmons LSS A116
David Sturges LSS A175
Phyllis Patterson HGreen 327
Ruth Ostrander HGreen 316
Kathy Smith TW 218
Van Luther TW 208
Bev Wilder TW 138

Barbara Hart
Barbara Hart
Diane Johnson
Diane Johnson
Thea Kester
Thea Kester
Thea Kester

No tapes for anyone - just a visit and a bulletin

A Note from Charlie Churchmouse...



Hello, all!

It's been awhile since I had Pam put in a Grace Notes greeting from me. What a busy time around the PUMC. Whew...I got tired just watching! I truly enjoyed every minute of the preparations: decorating, choir cantata practices, Christmas parties, peeking in the Missions Post Office, Sunday School classes, Praise Team practices, worship services...so much to do around here!

I truly enjoyed the presentation of "A Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir Christmas" that combined our choir with the choir from Findley Lake. There were over 50 people in the combined choirs, in addition to the directors and all the musicians. It was a lot of work to get them all together and organized but Julie and Dave accomplished that feat with relative ease. I even hopped on the bus and rode from Panama to Findley Lake and back the night of the cantata. The supper in between performances and the cookies and punch afterwards certainly hit the spot! What great FLUMC hospitality!

The Christmas Eve Service here was awesome...I especially love the ring of candles at the end with Paula's rendition of "Oh, Holy Night." That is one of my favorite parts of the entire Christmas season. It even brings tears to my eyes as I write this.

Well, I better finish this and send it off to Pam so she can get the newsletter finished.

I hope you all had a wonderfully blessed Christmas, and I look forward to sharing what is to come in 2012 with all of you at the PUMC. Even though you don't see me (I don't think you do, anyway), I hope you know I keep you in my prayers and wish you only the best in the new year.

Blessings,
Charlie

THANK YOU!!

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank everyone for the visits, cards, phone calls, food and especially your prayers during my time in the hospital and recovery at home.

After my doctor's appointment in Rochester, it was decided I did not need to be put on a liver transplant list at this time. I will continue to doctor here in Jamestown with Rochester in constant contact. My plans are to be back to work on Monday, January 9, 2012.

Bill and I wish you all a very Blessed New Year. We love you all.

Kathy

NURSERY NOTE

There is Nursery care available during Sunday morning worship for children **ages birth to 4 years old**. Two nursery helpers are available to care for your child/children so that 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 that obligation, please let Tina know as soon as possible so she can make the necessary adjustments. Thanks!



January Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 Carl Anderson, Scott Neilans, *Dean/Rebecca Sprague*
- 2 Adam Dole
- 3 Caroline Apthorpe, Reese McGaffick, Erin Miller, Pam Sali
- 4 Cliff Reardon,
-  5 Kim Auge, Betty Johnson, Ruth Russ
- 6 Jeff Ireland
- 7 Andrew Apthorpe, David Rowe
- 8 Claire Apthorpe, Mathis Baehr
- 9 Aubriana Dominey, Dennis Furlow, Jan Wheeler
- 10 Jacob Caldwell, Patrick Caldwell, Ashley Senske
- 13 Amanda Sard
- 15 Bruce Crist, Sarah Malinoski-Umberger, Scott Simmes
- 16 Allene Dole, Bob Gleason, Bob Miller, Sharon Vandevelde, *Mark/Carolyn Stow*
- 17 Bronson Edwards, Jim Loomis
- 18 Jonathan Komarek, Taylor Shreve
- 19 Don Garfield, Gladys Wood
- 22 Marcey Furlow, Shannon Jessup, *Mike/Luella Sard*
- 24 Ian Ellsworth
- 25 Kevin Beckerink, Linda Wood, *Stanley/Elinor Sturges*
- 26 Shawn Reardon
- 27 Alexandria Davis, Stanley Sturges
- 28 Michael Sard
- 29 Mert/Janet Osborne*
- 30 Anna Sobolewski



A look ahead to February....

- 1 Dennis Scheller
- 2 Kevin Rowe, Marissa Trisket
- 3 Eric Scolton, Anna Vandevelde
- 4 Willson Baer, Meghan Gooch, Sheila White, Howie Wheeler
- 5 Jeff Enlow, Bill Schneider
- 6 Carl Davis III, Brenda Ireland

News from the Christian Education Department

Thank you to all who made our Birthday Party for Jesus a great success. We began the party with some “heavy hitters” who were successful in breaking open the piñata filled with treats. Our teachers all worked very hard providing some jars of soup, filled with love, for our children to enjoy.

During the Advent season, we also collected for the White Gift and that collection exceeded \$1,000. God is great! We truly feel blessed to be a part of such a giving, loving church. Special thanks to Pastor Steve and his family for providing great leadership!

Our Christian Education Department continues to work hard to provide opportunities for all ages to learn more and experience the abundance of God’s love. Please check out one of our many adult classes and the new topics to be offered beginning with the New Year.

As a reminder, there will be no Sunday School on New Year’s Day, so please plan to join us on January 8.

Blessings to you all,
Carm and George

Women and Missions (WAM)

The next luncheon meeting of **Women and Missions** is Monday, January 9 at 11:45 a.m. at the Rowdy Rooster. Please join us when we gather informally, have lunch, and share together as women who care about those in our own neighborhoods and those around the world, as well.



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 Panama 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 per 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
December 29, 2011