



Pastor's Thoughts

January 2014

As most of you know, I have never been silent about my expectation to retire in the near future. This is to let you know that I have written to Bishop Webb asking to retire on July 1, 2014. After 37 years of ministry it's time to step aside and let others carry on the work. I will be returning to Oswego, NY where I grew up, and there renew acquaintances and hopefully complete some scripts and another book.

I have been going through my files and have been reminded of how much I've written over the years—plays (full-length and one acts), short stories, essays, poems and special worship services. Combine that with nearly 2000 sermons, there's a great deal of sorting to do. I have followed John Wesley's advice about not keeping sermons. He said keep only the last seven years because in that length of time you grow and change so much that anything older is not worth saving. I'll do one better, and not save any of them!

Unlike some other clergy, I don't repeat sermons and I don't keep a card file of quotes and illustrations, so in that regard there's nothing to save. Every sermon I've written was for the moment and so I wouldn't feel worthy of preserving. Perhaps I'll put together a three year cycle of Sunday meditations combining all the best thoughts (that I can remember) and explore publication; time will tell.

As we all move through this period of transition, we will do so with a sense of urgency about what we will all need to have in place for the next phase of life - both personal and for the church.

You need to know the Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee has been and will continue to work on your behalf with the District Superintendent to see that the Dryden United Methodist Church is well cared for. In the interim we will continue to work together to fulfill ministry in all its varied forms so that God's work can go on with enthusiasm and an honest commitment of service to all.



PASTOR'S THOUGHTS p. 1

WORSHIP READINGS

January

5 Isaiah 60: 1-6

Matthew 2: 1-12

12 Isaiah 42: 1-9

Matthew 3: 13-17

19 Isaiah 49: 1-7

John 1: 29-42

26 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

Matthew 4: 12-23



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ANNOUNCEMENTS



OUTREACH COMMITTEE—2013

The Outreach Committee of the Dryden United Methodist Church had another successful year with their outreach missions.

Our continued involvement in the on-going mission work with the monthly dinners for the community and our Haiti student sponsorships and lunch program are still very strong with the congregation. The Dryden United Methodist Church sponsors two dinners a month. With the help of two other local churches, the church has four dinners each month. On average, we serve over 65 community members a week. We are seeing our numbers increase this year. The need is great! In Haiti, we currently sponsor one high school student and one medical school student as a congregation, with several individual congregants sponsoring their own students. We still donate \$1000 a year to the lunch program at the Mitzpah School. Some of that money comes from the weekly can and bottle donations.

This year in January, we held a dessert auction which raised approximately \$1000. We divided the funds between African University (\$500) and Hurricane Sandy victims.

During Lent, approximately \$250 was collected for "ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING".

This Spring, we collected supplies and packed 25 health kits and 25 school kits for Church World Service.

In May, we held our annually rummage sale and raised over \$1600 for our mission projects.

In June for Father's Day, we raised over \$325 for Blanket Sunday.

Over the Summer, banks were distributed to collect funds for our local school chairity, "HANDS" (Help a Needy Dryden Student). We also donated \$100 to our churchs' quilter's group (My Brother's Keeper) who make sleeping bags for the homeless.

October always brings the DRYDEN CROP WALK. This year we raised over \$1000 with 25% of funds staying in the community for our food cupboards. Our church continually provides food and funds for the Dryden Kitchen Cupboard which serves the Dryden community and the Web program that feeds our school children during the weekends and holidays. Also in October of this year, in order to help out an elderly couple that was moving to another state, we held a moving sale. The proceeds of over \$1800 were donated by the couple to the outreach missions.

In December, "THE ANGEL TREE" is always a successful mission. We collect \$10 for every angel that is put on our Christmas tree and then use those funds to buy food, clothing and toys for approximately 12 children in our community that otherwise would have a bleak Christmas. Last year, we raised over \$1600.

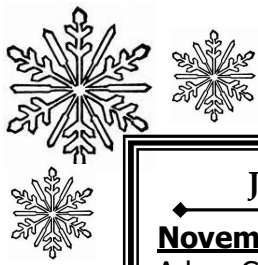
The success of the outreach programs in our church are because of a loving and giving congregation!



Submitted by:

Pat Liddington, Outreach Chair





ANNOUNCEMENTS



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

November

Adam Chase	1-3
Danielle Prince	1-4
Reed Cleland	1-5
Seth Paddock	1-8
Shirley Cuykendall	1-9
Erin Stopinski	1-10
Timothy Stopinski	1-10
Nathan Paddock	1-12
Addison Faben-Wade	1-13
LaVerna Woodard	1-13
Bethany Stephenson	1-20
Joyce Weston	1-22
Jason Button	1-23
Linda Kirsch	1-23
Phyllis Meekin	1-23
Katherine Chadwick	1-26
Cory Goodenough	1-30
Sarah Ramey	1-30
Greg Murray	1-31



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Several people have completed their terms on different committees and boards and they deserve recognition for their work during those years.

Jennifer Dick leaves the Trustees after three years during which time she served as secretary. Dave Coleman ends his tenure on the Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee where he had served for several years as Chairman. Lillie Turman leaves the Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee where she served as a youth representative. There has also been some shuffling of member of the various program teams. Thanks to all who have served and those who continue to serve.

COFFEE HOURS

Volunteers are needed to provide & serve refreshments following the **10:30 am Church Service**. The "sign-up" sheet is posted on the Membership, Nurture & Care board in the Fellowship Hall.



If you have any questions, please contact Carol Chase @ 607-844-4386 or send an e-mail: cchase1971@aol.com

PROGRAM TEAMS

All of the program teams—Christian Education, Outreach, Worship and Music, and Nurture and Membership Care—will meet on Tuesday, January 7th at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. At that time everyone will have input into the 2014 calendar of events. Everyone in the church is invited to come and share their ideas for new programs for 2014.

FREE TAX PREPARATION



Again for February—April, the Alternative Credit Union of Ithaca will be offering free tax preparation at our church.

This will be the third year the program has operated out of our church. Watch for more details about the dates. There will be two Saturdays a month and information on how to register will come next month.

UPPER ROOMS

The January/February "Upper Room" is available at the back of the sanctuary.





ANNOUNCEMENTS



WEB PROGRAM



During the month of November our church collected 46 cans of canned pasta. Thank you for your generosity which allows 60 children at risk for hunger to have nutritious food over the week-end.

We will be collecting jars of peanut butter (approximately 15-16 oz.) in January. We continue to purchase shelf stable milk. Children receive a quart once every 4 weeks along with hot cocoa, instant breakfast drink and instant oatmeal. The other weeks they receive a single serving box. Our milk bill is about \$350 per month. Monetary donations may be made to Dryden Kitchen Cupboard earmarked WEB.

Thank you for your support and prayers. You are making a difference in the lives of many children



PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2014

Have you made out a pledge card for 2014? Now is the time to let the church know the level of your financial commitment for the year. This information is essential for the planning process as budgets are set and the ministries of the church are undertaken. The work of the church relies on your regular giving to assure that ministry continues.



TRUSTEE MEETING

The Board of Trustees will hold their organizational meeting at 7pm on Tuesday, January 14th. At the meeting officers will be elected so it is important for all trustees to attend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM BIG HIT!

The Sunday School classes presented "The Visit: A Nativity Story" to the congregation on Sunday, Dec. 15. The play tells the story of the wise men and their camel. Perhaps the biggest surprise was when the wise men (played by Reed Cleland, Jesse Turman and Ben Dickinson) pulled and pushed the camel through the doorway into the sanctuary, and revealed it to be life-sized. Voiced by Marita Miller but with two hidden persons inside to make it come to life, the camel led the wise men around the sanctuary until they finally reached the stable at Bethlehem.

Parts in the play were performed by youngsters from four years of age through high school. Everyone is to be thanked for all their hard work.



Dryden United Methodist Church
Lay Leadership
2014

Administrative Council

Chair:	Nancy Hart
Vice Chair:	Hummy VanDeWeert
Secretary:	Pat Liddington
Lay Member to Annual Conference:	Ron Ramsden
Lay Leader:	Lorraine Balmer
Chair, Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee:	LORRAINE BALMER
Finance Chair:	Charlie Hart
Financial Secretary:	Joyce Church
Trustee President:	Elected by Trustees
Christian Education Chair:	Elected by Committee
Membership/Nurture and Care Chair:	Elected by Committee
Memorial Committee Chair:	Ginny Farmer
Outreach Chair:	Elected by Committee
Worship and Music Chair:	Elected by Committee
Historian:	Esther Wilcox
Members at large:	Jim Zwart
Pastor:	Richard H. Sivers

Board of Trustees

(Chair elected at January meeting by the Trustees)

2014

Jeff Walkuski
John VanDeWeert
Richard Church

2015

Charlie Miller
Clayton Ball
Kathie Chadwick

2016

Michelle Welschonce
Rich Winter

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee

(Lorraine Balmer, Chairperson)

2014

Steve Kirsch
Ron Ramsden
Pat Liddington
(Lay Member Annual Conference, Ron Ramsden)
(Lay Leader, Lorraine Balmer)

2015

Joyce Church
Carol Chase
Heather Peterson

2016

KEVIN EZELL
Judy Starr
JERRY GOODENOUGH

Endowment Fund Committee

2014

Les Cleland
(Pastor, Ad. Council Chair, Treasurer, Finance Chair, Trustee Rep.)

2015

Kay Smith

Dryden United Methodist Church

Lay Leadership

2014 p.2

Lay Leadership

(pastor serves as chair)

2014

Pat Liddington

Hummy VanDeWeert

Lay Leader by virtue of office

2015

Sharon Miller

Sharon Hamilton

2016

DAVE COLEMAN

TBD

Finance Committee

(Charlie Hart, Chair; Charles Cuykendall, Vice Chair)

Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Ad. Council Representative, Trustee Representative, SPPRC Chair or Representative, Pastor, Les Cleland, at Large Member

Memorial Committee

Ginny Farmer, Kay Cleland, Esther Wilcox, member Trustees, member Worship, member Outreach

Program Committees

(chairpersons will be selected by each team)

Christian Education

(Nataive Amer. Respon.)

Eddie Ayer

Jackie Bellamy

Linda DeLong

HUMMY VANDEWEERT

Membership, Nurture & Care

Shirley Yeager

Priscilla Ball

Carol Chase

Clayton Ball

Kay Cleland

LORRAINE BALMER

JENNIFER DICK

Outreach

Shirley Cuykendall

Marlene Winter

Martha Ezell

Pat Liddington

Cathy Paddock

Sharon Hamilton

Worship and Music

Nancy Hart

Charles Cuykendall (Head Usher)

Barbara Turman

CAROL DIK

Lay Leader

(Kathie Chadwick and Kate Wilkinson, as ex officio)

(BOLD indicates a new person to the position)



YEAR END CAPITAL FUND REPORT

(While this report only takes the Capital Fund through to December 1st, it gives you an indication of how well everyone is doing.)

Anticipated pledge receipts for 2013 were \$41,714.33, with all but \$3389.33 received by December 1st. Some people pay monthly and we expect that by the end of the year to have received all of the money pledged.

We have received from one-time gifts, \$70, 283! That includes money from members of the church, community members and local businesses. That amount can increase at any time funds are received that are not pledge dollars.

Congregational loans have amounted to \$25,000. These will need to be paid back with interest in the future.

A total of \$52,015.92 was transferred from several trustee accounts (Little and Havington bequests) for work on the Rose Window and for general contract work. With the \$100.32 in interest, that means we have had available \$185,724.24 for current and future work.

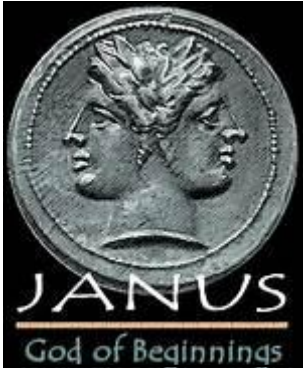
We have paid out \$114,077.03 to Jeff Horton for work done to date. He will complete work under the terms of the contract in the Spring. Another \$18,950 has been paid to Durr Studios for work on the Rose Window. An additional \$22,650 will be paid next year when restoration of the window is complete. There has been \$264.76 paid out for mailings, etc. related to the Capital Fund, for a total expenditure in 2013 of \$133,291.79 leaving a current balance in the account of \$52,432.45

If everyone who had made a three-year pledge to the Capital Fund fulfills their obligation in 2014 we anticipate receiving another \$38,550.33; in 2015, \$31,050.32 and in 2016 \$1835.00. That will bring the total of receipts to \$260,549.23, with \$25,000 of that to be repaid in loans, plus interest.

The Trustees continue to discuss future needs for the maintenance of the church building.

Thank you to Charlie Hart who has done such a wonderful job keeping track of all the numbers. Statements will be mailed out in January to everyone.





A Story by Esther



January -- named for the two-faced God, Janus, with one face looking back and the other looking ahead. A new year is a good time to take a personal inventory, thinking about what we have already done and what we might like to do in the future. Is it time for a change? Someone said, "The only difference between a rut and a grave is the dimensions." But if you don't "look before you leap" you might "go from the frying pan to the fire." Maybe the "rut" isn't so bad after all.

Is the grass really "greener on the other side of the fence?" Sheep seem to think so. I read about a farmer who got his sheep to eat where he wanted them to by continually moving his fence.

I wrote before how the late Rev. Peter Marshall decided whether or not to accept a call to another church. He felt there had to be a call away from where he was and a call to somewhere else at the same time for it to be the right move. A minister I knew attended a performance of a musical group from a town on the eastern end of Long Island and thought it might be nice to live near the ocean some day. Many years later, when he felt it was time to move on to a different church, he learned that the church in that town was looking for a new pastor. That's where he went.



Here are some thoughts for the new year -- "words of wisdom" that I have collected through the years from various sources:

"God promises to feed the birds, but He doesn't put the food in their nests."

"God provides the food, but we have to cook it."

"The hardest thing to live down is the time spent in living it up."

"The light that shines the farthest shines the brightest nearest home."

"Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape."

"We don't know what the future holds, but we know Who holds the future."

Some people make New Year's resolutions. I am not sure where these came from:

"The spendthrift baker resolves to spend less dough.

The clockmaker who is always in a hurry resolves to take more time.

The errant seamstress resolves to mend her ways.

The angry lumberman resolves to bury the hatchet."

This came from a cryptogram in a puzzle book: "Let our New Year's resolution be this:

*We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity,
in the finest sense of the word." Amen!*



HAPPY New Year





January 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year	2	3 MBK 10am AA/ AL-Anon 7pm	4
5 Worship 8:30 & 10:30am	6	7 Program Teams 7 pm	8 MOPS 9-11 Community Dinner (HC) 5:30-6:30pm Choir 7 pm	9	10 MBK 10am AA/ AL-Anon 7pm	11
12 Worship 8:30 & 10:30am	13	14 Trustees 7 pm	15 Community Dinner (UMC) 5:30-6:30pm Choir 7 pm	16	17 MBK 10am AA/ AL-Anon	18
19 Worship 8:30 & 10:30am	20	21 Finance 1 pm	22 MOPS 9-11 Community Dinner (CL) 5:30-6:30	23	24 MBK 10am AA/ AL-Anon	25
26 Worship 8:30 & 10:30am 	27	28	29 Community Dinner (UMC) 5:30-6:30 Choir 7 pm	30	31 MBK 10am AA/ AL-Anon	