

NOVEMBER, 2009

St. James United Church of Christ
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Edited by Charlotte Cialone

GIFT Thanksgiving Dinner

GIFT– Growing in Faith Together. GIFT is five UCC churches that have been meeting and sharing together in a variety of ways as we support each other on our journeys as Christians. Participants are: St. James in Hamburg, St. Paul's in Alden, First Congregational, Angola, St. John's in Strykersville, and First Congregational in Niagara Falls.

The Thanksgiving meal has become an annual tradition – and a wonderful one. Please plan on joining us. The meal is free. Just sign up on the bulletin board so we know about how many people to expect. It's a wonderful gathering – with great food (a full turkey dinner), great company (from 6 different churches), and great worship!

We eat at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 14th. Worship is at 6:30, and afterwards go back to the Assembly Hall for coffee and dessert. Please join us!!!

Thanksgiving Eve

Thanksgiving was at it's heart a religious festival, as the pilgrims gave thanks to God that they had enough! Please join us at church on our Thanksgiving Eve (Tuesday - November 24). At 7 p.m. , we'll have a brief (20-30 minutes) service of worship as we give thanks together.

COVENANT PLAYERS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

The Covenant Players will be with us. They are a Christian Drama Group which has an incredible ability to enliven worship with short skits that very powerfully communicate Christian Messages. The theme that morning will be Gratitude and Generosity, as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving – and at the same kick off our 2010 Stewardship Campaign. This will be an incredible Sunday – and you won't want to miss it!

HARVEST HOME SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22ND

At Thanksgiving time one of the natural things to do is to give in gratitude to help those who are less fortunate than we are. Sunday November 22nd is a wonderful opportunity. On Harvest Home Sunday we encourage people to bring donations of food, or monetary donations that can be used by area food pantries to buy food through the Buffalo Food Bank.

“GOD IS STILL SPEAKING” @ St. James UCC

“No matter who you are, where you are on life's journey you are welcome here”

PAULA PFISTER PIE AUCTION

.Twice a year a pie/dessert auction is held to raise funds for the Paula Pfister Christian Education Scholarship fund. This fund was established to honor the memory of Paula who served as CE Director at St. James for several years. Students who serve faithfully in our CE program for their high school years are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Paula was a wonderful person who worked hard for our children and congregation. Please honor her memory by participating in this wonderful event. If you would like to help with this event please sign-up to bring a pie in a non-returnable pie plate. Just sign-up, bring in the pie or pies the day of the auction, fill out a bidding sheet/form the day of the event which is held in the assembly hall. and stay and bid on other pies or watch as your donation raises money for this worthwhile event. Other types of desserts are welcome as well as pies.

DECORATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Please join us Saturday, November 28 at 10 a.m.

Helping hands are needed along with the Cabinet to decorate the church.

WESTERN AREA FALL MEETING AT ST. JAMES

St. James will be hosting Western Area on November 1st, Sunday afternoon. Registration begins at 2 p.m., worship is at 2:30 with a business meeting, elections, and installations. The meeting will be followed by a dinner at 5:00 p.m.. We hope that our new interim Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Rita Root, will be able to attend.

We will need a few volunteers to help with guiding visitors through our building and with dinner to follow the meeting. Please speak with Alva if you are available for a few hours that day.

PLEDGE ARREARS

If your pledge is behind for the year 2008, please make up the difference as soon as possible.

4TH GRADE BIBLE STUDY

This year our 4th graders will participate in Bible study on Sunday, November 8th & Sunday, November 15th with a copy of The Good News Bible being presented to them on Sunday, November 22nd during worship. The children will be studying with Pastor Alva in preparation to receive their Bibles. This is a special time in the life of the children; they are now old enough to be able to read and have a better understanding of what has been written about within the covers of this special book. If you have a child in 4th grade and have not received a letter before the classes start please speak to Karen or Pastor Alva.

PRAYER SHAWLS

The holidays are coming up and the ladies have made many beautiful prayer shawls. If you know of someone who could use one please check with the office

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

It's ALMOST that time of year again! For those of you expecting a pledge card this month, don't worry! You will have more time to think about this year as we are going to have Commitment Sunday on December 6th. There will be a special presentation worship service on November 22nd. Your pledge cards will be available after this service. They can be mailed or put in the offering plate by December 6th.

For those who aren't aware or have forgotten, remember that you may use automated giving to make your weekly pledge. If you choose to take advantage of that way to keep your pledge current, you may see Dave Reichard or Barb Reuter. They will be happy to help get you started.

Family Night Wednesday, November 4th from 6:30pm - 8:30pm .

Please remember to sign-up if you are planning on attending. When you sign-up please indicate whether you are willing to stay and help clean up following the event. Also indicate if you are willing to bring a dessert. If you have a special activity you would like to lead to entertain the children be sure to let Karen know. Karen is always looking for suggestions and help. Remember to sign-up, help if you can, and remember to attend. This night is for you and you can make it what you want! Talk to Karen if you have questions or idea's.

FLU CLINIC

The Visiting Nursing Association of WNY Inc. held their Flu Clinic here on Oct. 1st. We have participated in the clinic since 2005. They administered over 130 shots this season

Family Movie Night

Please plan to attend our Family Movie Night on Friday, November 13th at 7 p.m.. We will be watching Disney-Pixar's "UP" (Rated PG) an animated comedy adventure about a 78 year old man who ties balloons to his house and flies away, with an 8 year old stowaway. Popcorn and drinks will be provided - if you'd like to bring a snack or baked goods to share feel free to bring something! Please sign-up on the bulletin board.

HOPE & HOSPICE WEEKEND

Nov. 6- Nov. 8, 2009

Hospice cares for loved ones and their family. Our compassionate team offers comfort and dignity wherever a patient lives 24 hours round the clock care...caring not just for cancer but for any illness.

For information call 686-8077 or visit hospicebuffalo.com

ATTENTION FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Hamburg United Methodist Church has begun a "respite" program in the second Wednesday of each month from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm at the church at 116 Union St. Trained volunteers will provide supervised fun activities, piano music/singing and a nutritious lunch for your loved ones all at No Charge – all are welcome.

Please contact Lisa Rood at 941-5703 for more information or to sign up.

CHARACTER COUNCIL OF HAMBURG, INC.

November 2009,
Initiative vs Idleness

Initiative is recognizing and doing what need to be done before I am asked to do it.

TLC

Thanks to all who have purchased and continue to purchase TOPS cards.

ADVENT WORKSHOP

On Dec 6th after church, we will have something for all ages. The youth will be preparing subs in honor of Pearl Harbor Day. Please mark your calendar and join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship

UNITED CHURCH HOME

Re-zoning has been applied for to turn a former Catholic church and school in North Tonawanda, called Plymouth Crossroads, into subsidized housing for homeless youths and low-income veterans. This project would utilize the school, church, convent and rectory buildings.

The first phase would turn the rectory into housing for homeless males between the ages of 16 and 21. The goal is to help young people "before they get in trouble with the law. These homes are a perfect solution for these kids." said Caro C. Halter, Director of Development. Young people would live at Plymouth Crossroads, voluntarily and a staff of up to 15 would be hired.

The second phase calls for the convent to become housing units for females between 16 and 21 in the spring of 2011 and in the fall of 2011 the school would be renovated into 17 handicapped accessible units for veterans, the church would be turned into housing units, as well as a community center.

There are currently no housing units in Niagara County for low income veterans. The targeted veterans are most often between 50 and 62.

The United Church Home Society runs Fox Run at Orchard Park as well as United Church Manor in West Seneca.

WOMEN'S SEWING MISSION

Our next meeting is Tuesday November 10th at 9:30 a.m. in the Assembly Hall. Come and join us. Bring your lunch; a delicious dessert will be provided by Coris Sillence.

Our Christmas Party will be Tuesday December 8th after our Sewing session. We will car pool to Heidi's Hideaway. For details contact Jennie Altes or Karen Sutton

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 20st is the date to circle on your calendar for this year's Christmas Pageant. It is a special morning and service when the children tell the story of the birth of the Christ Child. The service begins at 10 a.m. The pageant will be presented at the children's sermon. Fittings take place in November and finish on December 6th. Please be sure to fill out a pageant permission form and return it. Permission slips may be picked up from your child's church school teacher, the church office or on the table by the CE bulletin board. display. You may return the completed forms to the teacher or church office.

Dress rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, December 19th from 10 a.m. - Noon followed by a holiday pizza party. If you would like to help with the pageant, rehearsal or party, please speak to Karen Reinagel. We always have room for all the children that would like to be included in the cast. Participation in the pageant is usually for four years old and up. If a parent feels that their three-year old is ready to be in the pageant, please speak to Karen to make arrangements. The youngest children are usually the stars. If you have any questions please feel free to call the Christian Education Office and speak to Karen.

Operation Christmas Child

The Power of a Simple Gift is a Samaritan's Purse Project sponsored by the Board of Christian Education and the Senior High Youth Group is being held **November 16th - 22rd**. Operation Christmas Child bring joys and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Here's how you can make a difference in the lives of those children:

Step 1 Shoe Box - Please pick up an empty standard size shoe box or a small plastic container. You can wrap the box lid

separately, but wrapping is not required. Most important pray for the child who will receive your gift.

Step 2 Boy or Girl? Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. Use the appropriate boy/girl label provided with the shoe box. Mark the correct age category on the label, and tape the label to the top of your box.

Step 3 Fill With gifts - Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child. Gift Suggestions: School Supplies - pens, pencils, and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps, and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.; small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoo's and harmonicas, yo-yo's, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.; Hygiene Items - toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.; Other - hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball, caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries); A Personal Note - In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child might write back). **DO NOT INCLUDE:** Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out of date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Step 4 Include Your Donation - Please donate \$7 or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover the shipping and other project costs. You can use the donation envelope included in the shoe box. If you or your family are preparing more than one shoe box, please make one combined donation.

Step 5 Drop Off - Place a rubber band around each closed shoe box and drop off at the collection center near the lounge or church office by **November 22nd**.

SERVER'S

The Server's will meet in the Horton Lounge on Tuesday, November 24th at 1:00 p.m.

A SOUP-ER SUCCESS

The Server's Fellowship held its annual soup sale on October 10th, raising approximately \$1686.65. This was all clear profit since all ingredients were either donated, or purchased with donated money. All money donated for supplies came from members of St. James, friends, TOPS and Wegmann's stores. We were fortunate to have several members volunteer to help on the day of the sale with set-up, clean-up, cooking and lifting of heavy kettles. Thank you all for the wonderful help. To everyone who has made a donation, lended a hand, placed an order or came for lunch, the Servers thank you for your support.

ANGEL/MITTEN TREE

The Board of Christian Education has decided to center this Advent Season around the theme "Giving" and with that in mind the Board is pledging to make sure every tag on the Angel Tree has a gift to be sent back to the Salvation Army. The "**No Tag Left Behind**" policy. The donations in the children's offering envelopes will help to defray the cost of purchasing the gifts in order to fulfill that goal. You are invited to make monetary donations to help defray the cost of purchasing gifts to fill the tag requests during the advent season. Please help make this Christmas special for someone in need.

The Angel/Mitten Tree is a tradition at St. James for many years. The tree is used to place warm hats, mittens, gloves, & scarves on the branches and then given to those in need. children. The tags on the tree are for you to purchase a gift for the child on the tag, either purchasing the suggested items or choosing one you would like to give. Your gift is tax deductible.

The gift tags will be in the lounge once they arrive so let the giving begin. **Remember do not gift wrap your gift!!!!** Please just return it and place it under the tree in the sanctuary or the lounge with the original tag attached to the item/s. The Salvation Army needs to be able to see all the gifts. The deadline to bring in gifts is Sunday December 13th. If you have any questions please speak to Karen Reinagel.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ADVENT ITEMS

On the first Sunday in Advent, November 29th, during the children's sermon, the children will receive a special advent gift. They will also hear about the special "No TAG Left Behind" policy for this years Angel/Mitten Tree. There will also be a basket of advent items on display located near the bulletin board. Please help yourself to any items you might like during the advent season.

MUSIC MINISTRY

We welcome singers of all ages and voice types to join in singing at St. James! You can come to a rehearsal any time to see what singing is all about. Soon we will be practicing music for Christmas -that's always fun to sing.

This is the November rehearsal schedule. I look forward to singing with you soon!

Cherub, Youth, Teen Singers:
Rehearse Wednesday November 4, 11, 18. No rehearsal Nov 25. Rehearsals are at 7 and 7:30 respectively. These young singers will sing Sunday, November 8th for worship. Warmup is at 9:30.

Chancel Choir Rehearsals:
9:15 warmup Nov 1, 15 22
Special Music Sunday Nov.29
Warmup 9:30.
11 a.m. choir rehearsals are Nov 8, 15, 22, 29

Christina Shrewsbury
Music Director

CROP WALK

On Sunday, October 18th the Community CROP Walk was held and the Youth House was open and served as a rest stop for the walkers. Thank you to everyone who helped to man the rest stop/youth house during the walk. We also had a group of youth help out at the house during the walk.

SNOW ANGELS NEEDED CALLING ALL YOUTH

Forecast - snow, snow, snow, and more snow! Sound familiar? Winter is just around the corner and the village gets more than it's share of snow. As winter arrives, comes the inevitable chore of keeping sidewalks and driveways clear of snow and ice.

Last year more than 30 youth in the village signed up to be "Snow Angels" and volunteered to provide assistance to village residents who needed assistance during the winter months. Our Snow Angel Program was recognized by the National League of Cities as one of the most successful and creative programs from cities and towns across the country.

We want to continue the Snow Angel Program again this year and are looking for volunteers to sign up. The village tries to match up youth in the same area of the village where the residents have a need. All arrangements made are between the youth and the resident.

If you are a youth that is interested in participating, please contact me at 649-6170 Lynn Detzel ldetzel@villagehamburg.com or Recreation Supervisor Bill Nye bnye@villagehamburg.com

It is this service spirit that enables the village to work toward its vision of being the most desirable community in Western NY. Where quality of life, affordability and innovation are the norm. Thank you!

HEIFER FAIR

We began the Fall Church School Program by working on a Heifer Fair which was held on Sunday, October 18th following worship in the Assembly Hall. The church school children raised \$335.00 which will be doubled by legacy funds and are being sent in honor of Rev. Robert Matlack's 25th anniversary. This is an annual event that the Church School presents. GREAT JOB KIDS!!!! Thank you to everyone who supported this great event and cause.

SHALOM ORPHANAGE AND CHILD CARE CENTER

In July, the Legacy Committee recommended the approval of \$2,000 to support the work of the Shalom Orphanage & Child Care Center in Karatu, Tanzania. The following article is written by Dave Reichard, a member of our congregation who visited the orphanage and brought it to the attention of our Social Concerns Committee:

Maryann and I, together with our daughter Jessica, visited the Shalom Orphanage in February 2009 as a side trip from a safari focused on visiting national parks. It turned out our experience at the orphanage was just as moving and memorable as seeing the zebras, elephants, lions, cheetahs and other animals in their natural habitats.

We were shown around the orphanage by Dorcas, the daughter of the founder and head of the orphanage, Mrs. Warra E. Nnko. Warra started out by caring for just one child; when we visited there were 45 children at the Center and more recently there were 52. Dorcas showed us the cows, turkeys and pigs the Center raises for food and explained how many of the children are HIV positive and require special diets and medicine which the government supplies.

We also visited a classroom for the younger children who don't yet attend local schools. The children sang for us and Maryann played a game with them. What impressed us most was how happy the children seemed and how they supported and helped each other. Having everyone participate in the game, even one developmentally challenged boy, seemed more important than winning. It was obvious that the children got and shared a lot of love even if they had very little else.

Upon leaving the classroom, we found our driver/tour guide having a great time playing ball with some of the children. Then, when we left the Center, there were tears in my eyes – but not tears of sadness. Perhaps it was a mix of emotions, being inspired by what one woman had accomplished and yet knowing that she would continue to face many challenges. And not knowing where she would get the help to meet those challenges.

We are glad St. James has decided to help. So far, we have sent Shalom two installments of \$500, plus \$90 from the Servers' Luncheon. With the first funds, Warra reported being able to keep the electricity and water supply from being

turned off and to buy some cooking oil, sugar and corn. The Center had planted 5 acres of corn, but a drought affecting much of East Africa ruined the crop.

The second \$500 was used partially to help care for one of the children diagnosed with cancer. The government provides free care for cancer patients, but there is only one hospital in a country twice the size of California to provide this specialized care. Funds were needed to make the long trip to the hospital and to allow someone to stay with the child during treatment.

Warra is very thankful for the support provided by St. James. Recently, she wrote: "Thanks very much for your servant heart for these children. God will never forsake you."

Dave Reichard

FOOD PANTRY

Nov 1 Bisquick/bread mixes
Nov 8 Hot & cold cereal
Nov 15 Spaghetti sauce,
canned stew/ravioli
Nov 22 Pancake mix/oatmeal
Nov 29 Pasta/dinner mixes

REGISTRY

Baptism

Patricia Marthann Schoenhardt
Born: November 8, 1941
Baptized: October 17, 2009

THANK YOU

Thank you to Dan Newcomb for his help in attending meetings at Gowanda, Heidi and Mark Walling for their delivery of items for flood victims, and for everyone who donated to the cause. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Charlotte Cialone

A very special thanks to the Marzullo family for catering the delicious Cluster Dinner. The food was terrific as was the service.

Charlotte Cialone

Youth News

Don't forget our fund-raising projects:

- Abitibi Paper Recycling
- Can & Bottle Drive
- St. Pauly's Textile Drive, and our
- Candy Bar Sale

We will also be selling "**Enjoy The City Coupon Books**" during November and early December. Books are \$20.00 each. Please speak to a youth, Karen or Donna if your interested in buying one.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Youth Program!

Youth Calendar of Events 2009 - 2010

If you are a member of our Youth program you should have received a mailing of our yearly events calendar list for 2009 - 2010. If you did not receive one please let Karen know and she will send one to you or you can pick up a copy in the bin outside the CE Office or in the bin on the Youth Bulletin Board.

Upcoming Youth Events to mark on your calendars -and be sure to check Youth bulletin board. & sign-up if required.

Sunday, November 1st - Middle & Sr. High Youth have been asked to help serve and clean up for the WNY Area Meeting. Please sign up on Y. Bulletin bd. If you are willing to help.

November - Registration for Regional Youth Event (RYE) taking place in Pa., July 21st-25th. For Sr. High Youth

November 16th - 22nd - Operation Christmas Child - Sr. High Class overseeing this event.

Saturday, November 21st - Middle & Sr. High Youth Sleep over & Bowling @ Youth House

Sunday, November 22nd - Middle & Sr. High Youth will be bagging the donations from Harvest Home Sunday.

Sunday, November 22nd - Sr. High Youth help with Paula Pfister Pie Auction as needed Sunday, November 22nd.

Tuesday, November 24th 6:15pm Youth Board Meeting