

SEPTEMBER, 2009

St. James United Church of Christ
76 Main Street, Hamburg, NY 14075
716-649-6171

Robert Matlack, Pastor
Alva Looze, Associate Pastor

Christina Shrewsbury, Director of Music
Karen Reinagel, CE Director

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Edited by Charlotte Cialone

FROM PASTOR BOB

September is always an exciting time here at St. James. Many children and families are back after a summer respite. Activities resume, and St. James is a very busy, exciting place to be!

As the kick-off to that excitement, September 13th is the opening day of Church School. As usual we have some very special activities planned!!! However, even more important than the fun and the food is that this is a time to worship the one who has given us life, and to teach our children about the faith that has and continues to shape our lives.

Our community is richer and stronger when we are all active and involved. Make sure you're there on September 13^h and in the weeks that follow. Be an active part of this special community of faith and know the blessing of that involvement.

See you there!

Bob

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR ALVA

Summer has been a rainy one and then finished with weeks of hot weather. Our volunteers have taken folks to appointments and reached out to those in need. We are thankful for volunteers who helped in the disaster of our sister church, Trinity UCC, Gowanda. Our buildings and grounds have been well maintained, lawn mowed, beds weeded, flowers planted and all done by our own folks.

Our families had a great time at VBS and Casting Your Nets had a bonfire, music by Gary Burdick and s'mores. We are planning a fun gathering with the Board of CE on our Fall Church School Kick Off Day, September 13, preparing a Luau. Wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt, bring a chair, enjoy a strolling musician, activities for the kids and lunch.

We are busy with a few new ideas for fall and always appreciate your feedback.

"God is Still Speaking", let us take time to listen and to follow.

God Bless, Pastor Alva

CHURCH SCHOOL KICK OFF

Come and join us following worship for a LUAU and then stay for the ICE CREAM. It's time to start thinking about your favorite ice cream topping. You know, the one you are going to bring with you when you come to the Fall Church School Kick Off & Ice Cream Social.

Church School Classes will begin following the children's sermon at approximately 10:30am and run for an hour to open up the Fall Kick Off. This is a favorite event of the young and old alike, just bring your favorite topping to share and place it on the table near the kitchen the day of the event. The CE Board volunteers will take care of the rest. We look forward to seeing all of you on Sunday, September 13th. Remember to bring a lawn chair.

Karen Reinagel, Director
Christian Ed

BIBLE STUDY

Studying the Bible together is a very basic and important part of our journey as we seek to grow in our faith. After a summer vacation, our Thursday morning Bible Study will resume starting Thursday September 10th. We meet from 10 - 11 AM. I'll pick something to get us started the first week, and at the end of the session we'll spend a few minutes talking about what you'd like to study together next.

Bring your Bible (although we have plenty if you forget)!

SEWING MISSION

Our 2009-2010 season of the Women's Sewing Mission will begin on Tuesday, September 8th. Bring your lunch and meet in the Assembly Hall at 9:30. Please join us for charitable work and lively conversation. Dessert will be provided by Karen Sutton.

SERVERS

DON'T FORGET!!! Our soup sale is October 10, 2009 from 11:30 to 2:30 or until we are sold out.

The choices are

- beef vegetable,
- chicken noodle,
- ham & bean,
- broccoli cheese and
- chili.

If you eat in you will have soup, bread and a delicious dessert. Lunch for Adults will be \$5.00 with children 12 and under \$3.00.

We will also have baked goods, knives and dishcloths for sale.

CHURCH GIVING REMINDERS

Summer, even when it rains a lot, is the time of year when some folks fall behind in the contributions pledged to support our church's ministry. This summer has been no exception. Pledged income is less this year than it was last year.

Even though our financial situation is satisfactory currently, we can keep it up if those who are behind make an effort to catch up as the summer ends.

Remember, you can **AUTOMATE YOUR GIVING**. If vacations or simple forgetfulness cause you to fall behind, sign up to have your contributions deducted regularly from your checking or savings account. You can determine the timing and amount and can cancel at any time. You may obtain the required authorization form from the Church Office.

GOLF OUTING

Set aside **Sept. 6th** for a golf outing at Rolling Hills, a 9 hole golf course located in Chaffee, NY. We will be meeting at the church at 3 p.m. to car pool. If you need a cart please let Alva know so that one can be reserved for you.

A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

FLU CLINIC

Thursday, October 1, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the clinic will again be administering flu and pneumonia shots. No appointment is necessary. Insurances which will be accepted are: Medicare Part B, Univera, Independent Health, and Blue Cross Blue Shield.

HEIFER FAIR

The church school classes will be working on a Heifer Fair (mission project) during the first month of class. The children will be choosing an animal and preparing a booth in order to raise awareness and funds for Heifer International.

On Sunday, October 18th the children will hold their fair in the Assembly Hall during coffee hour. Everyone will have a chance to support this mission project and watch the delight on the faces of the children in our congregation as they raise funds to support their particular project. So remember to come and check out what is going on at the Heifer Fair, Sunday, October 18th. Check October's newsletter for more information.

SOUTHTOWNS CLUSTER DINNER

Dinner this year is here at St. James on September 27th.

5 p.m.	Gathering and Appetizers
6 p.m.	Dinner
7 p.m.	Program: Missionary/Musician George Miller

Presale tickets are \$15.00.

Tickets at the door are \$16.00

Tickets may be purchased at the Church office.

Our chef is Dave Marzullo, family and friends. They are preparing and serving the meal, and cleaning up! Come join your sisters and brothers for an evening of fellowship.

Please pick up your Quarterly statements beginning in October. Thank you, Barb Reuter

MUSIC NEWS

Welcome to the Music Ministry start up and schedule of goals for fall worship. The final Sunday of each month will continue to be an opportunity for Special Music. Please share your talent in worship either singing or playing an instrument. I would also like to hear from you if you have a favorite hymn.

The Cherub Choir will be preparing "Scripture Songs" for worship, simple songs based on familiar Bible Stories. They will also begin working on "One Starry Night", a simple Christmas musical for kids. The Youth and Teens have an opportunity to prepare special intonations with unison melodies which can be quickly learned. We can prepare them on designated Sundays before worship at 9:30. They will also be working on canting psalms. This means they will teach the congregation a sung response to a Psalm setting.

Our Chancel Choir will begin singing Sunday, September 6 with a warmup at 9:15 for those available.

I look forward to make music for worship fun in this coming year.

Christina Shrewsbury

JUST A NOTE:

A note to parents and church members - if you are willing to donate your time and talents to help with the youth program please stop and speak to Karen Reinagel. This can be anything from volunteering to run a youth activity to chaperoning an event or providing transportation to events.

SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

A special thank you to all who volunteered to help with the summer CE program. The children enjoyed the activities that were provided for them during the summer months. The following is a list of people who volunteered during the summer months; Heidi Walling, Dawn Berlin, Patty, Emily & Sara Jensen, Robin Lindstrom, Gay Lynn Nelson &, Margaret Stuhr . To the parents that brought their children to church during the summer months thank you for sharing them with us.

FAMILY NIGHT Wednesday, September 9th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

It must be the beginning of the school year. It's time to get back on track and attend those fall activities. This is a good time to begin a new activity. If you haven't been to a fun evening in the past, we invite you to come and try one.. Once a month, on the 1st Wednesday of each month, we gather to share dinner. Kids attend choir rehearsals, we visit and we catch up on what is going on in our lives. It's a fun, relaxed atmosphere for all. If you are planning on attending please sign-up on the sheet located on the bulletin board. If you would like to bring a baked good for dessert we would love to sample your baking. The menu is always pizza, salad, beverage and dessert if someone brings something.

If you have any questions please feel free to speak with Karen Reinagel.

CROP WALK OCTOBER 18th

You can make a difference! You can help feed hungry people. You can help to stock food pantries. You can help provide disaster relief. You can help to provide tools. You can help to shelter refugees.

Our Church School Children will NOT be walking in the spring of 2010 but the Youth House will be open for CROP walkers and church members are encouraged to participate in the local CROP walk which is being held October 18th. There will be more information in the October newsletter.

Walkers will step out all over Western NY this fall!

One-quarter of the dollars raised in the CROP Walk will return to communities in WNY for local hunger programs. CROP walks help to support food pantries, Meals on Wheels, meal sites and Food For All in WNY.

Pledge information will be posted near the bulletin board during the month of September up to the day of the CROP Walk. Talk to Karen if you need more information. **REMEMBER IF YOU WALK PLEASE TURN YOUR COLLECTED DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE SO WE CAN KEEP TRACK OF WHO WALKED AND WHAT THEY RAISED!**

KATHERINE MARY HOUSE NEEDS

As most of you know, the Katherine Mary House is a shelter for battered women in our Southtowns area. St. James has supported the shelter since it's beginning.

We have learned of their need for paper products, diapers, and light bulbs. We would like to set the month of October for St. James members to donate any of these items and others that you may have to share. There will be boxes set up for these donations outside the church office.

Also we learned they are in need of women's clothing and children's clothing if you have anything you may want to get rid of and need a place to give them.

Social Concerns Committee

NEWS FROM DUNKIRK

We are sad to report that Pilgrim Lodge was damaged by the storm and is closed indefinitely.

The Dunkirk Music Festival will be held Sunday, August 30, 2009. Among those folks performing: Mark Hemann, Elizabeth Ann Seton Singers, the Voices of Faith, His Ambassadors, The Last Half of Trapezium, Tim Lipps and The Praise Group from St. Matthews UCC

Walk-A-Thon

Dunkirk Conference Center is holding its 1st annual Walk a Thon Saturday September 26th. Pledge sheets are available at the CE Bulletin Board display. All money raised will go to the running of DDC. Please help this worthwhile project. For more information log onto the DCC website or talk to Karen Reinagel. walk4dcc@yahoo.com

YOUTH HOUSE AND PROPERTY

Did you realize that the Youth of St. James are responsible for maintaining and raising funds for the care and operation of the Youth House! A special thank you to anyone that has supported their efforts by financial means, mowing the lawn, shoveling snow in the winter, donating paper recycling items to the paper retriever program, donating clothing to the St. Pauly's clothing shed, bringing plastic bottles and cans so the youth can return them for the deposit money or supporting any of our many fund-raisers. Volunteers are appreciated to help the Youth with various projects. We have a special group of youth at St. James and your continued support of their efforts warms the heart and helps them pay the bills.

YOUTH FUND-RAISERS

Can & Bottle Drive

The Youth program is continuing their Can & Bottle Drive as an on going fund-raiser. If you would like to donate your empty cans and plastic bottles just leave them on the front porch (go up the stairs or ramp and place items in or near the plastic barrels on the right side of the porch) of the Youth House and we will take care of the rest. Please do not leave them by the back door of the Youth House. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY GLASS BOTTLES!

St. Pauly's Textile

Directly behind the Youth House is a shed from St. Pauly's Textile. If you have clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes and stuffed toys you are looking for a place to put....consider putting them in the St. Pauly's shed. St. Pauly is a locally owed company and a member of the Better Business Bureau. Their mission is to get USEABLE clothing to people who can use it, here in the U.S. and in 3rd World Countries. Within this past year almost 20 million garments have been distributed to over 3 1/3 million people all over the world. The clothing that we collect is never shredded. St. Pauly has worked with over 300 non-profit organizations within this past year, such as local charities, schools, church youth groups, fire and ambulance, and scout troops, to help them achieve a portion of their fund-raising needs. In the past 10 years St. Pauly has sent over \$1,000,000 to local non-profit groups. St. Pauly's works with a number of organizations that run clothing closets and outreach missions within the 20 county area. Please note that donations of financial and volunteer help are always appreciated by these groups. If you have further questions speak to Karen Reinagel or call St. Pauly's and speak to Joe or Paul at 585-292-0460. .If possible, please put clothing in plastic bags.

Thanks!

Abitibi Paper Recycling

Along with our other fund-raising efforts the youth will continue to operate the Abitibi Paper Recycling program at St. James. Please remember to place your paper items in the Abitibi Paper Retriever located at the rear of the St. James Parking Lot. Items that can be place in the Retriever are; newspaper, magazines, shopping catalogs, office & school papers and mail. Please do not put plastic, glass, metals or trash in the Retriever.

SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER

A number of church families are self-employed and we urge members to support them in their work. We are again trying to make a comprehensive list so please call the office to add your name or business to the list.

Carole Lee Rubeck, Assoc.
Broker, Hunt Real Estate
716-743-5163
www.RubeckResults.com

Thad Kosmowski
"Man About The House"
Repairs, remodeling and, custom
cupolas
716-861-8227

Melissa Reinagel Macri
Outdoor Adventures, LLC
866-407-3742

Food Pantry

Sept. 6 canned juice, juice
mixes
Sept. 13 dry milk
Sept. 20 cake, muffin mixes
Sept. 27 canned vegetables

REGISTRY

Baptisms:

Lauren Michelle Baggett
Zdrojewski
Born: February 10, 1984
Baptized: July 16, 2009
Parents: Tonia and Bryan
Baggett

Morgan Nicole Cooper
Born: December 18, 2008
Baptized: July 19, 2009
Parents: Tara and Eric Cooper

Griffin Lee Chambers
Born: January 22, 2009
Baptized: August 2, 2009
Parents: Rebecea and Darin
Chambers

Weddings:

Andrew Thomas Yakovac and
Andrea Marie Geis
Married: June 6, 2009

Tracy Guzetta and
Jeffrey Thauer
Married: August 8, 2009

SPECIAL SENIOR

An article in the Hamburg Sun shows The Character Council of Hamburg's Government Connection recognized several special senior citizens during opening ceremonies of the 10th annual Blast on the Beach event last month. Among the seniors honored is our own Horst Kirsten. We are proud to honor him also for the great work he does.

CHURCHES IN ACTION

Undie Sunday

The month of September is our scheduled Undie Sunday. There will be a collection box outside the office beginning September 5th. New unopened packages of men women and children's underwear and socks are requested. On September 27th, after church, all the collections from each church will be delivered to Trinity Episcopal Church at noon where the undies will be separated and given to Cornerstone Manor, Shalom Zone, Harvest House, St. Peters and Paul and The Trading Post. We feel the need will be even greater this year and hope those of you who can will donate generously.

It is always a fun time to give away what we've collected. We invite you to come along and be part of this project. Please see a CIA representative if you have questions. Charlotte Cialone, Heidi Walling and Ruth Rathman will be happy to speak with you.
.....and from the Board of Westside Ministries.....

Thanks to Churches in Action:

It is truly amazing what happens when people come together to share time, talents and resources. We were able to witness first hand the transformation of Congress Street as CIA volunteers gardened, painted, replaced windows, re-sided a house and built an entry way. This block is transitioning from a street in disrepair to one well cared for and safer.

On May 8th and 9th Churches in Action and Westside Ministries helped give a refugee family from Myanmar move into a house from a refugee camp. Another family from Somalia rented one of the houses.

We at Westside Ministries are extremely grateful recipients of your kindness and generosity.

Susan Lee
Board of Westside Ministries

THANK YOU!!!

Many thanks to the members of St. James who sent cards and visited me while I was hospitalized and kept me in their prayers. A special thank you to Rev. Matlack and Pastor Looze for their visits. The lap robe from Servers was well used and will be use in the future.

Barbara Peckham

I wanted to thank the Music Committee for the lovely plant I received as part of the Music Awards Sunday. It has held a special place on my front porch and is doing well.

Charlotte Lujan

Thank you so much for allowing our troop to stay at your church home. You made our stay comfortable and welcomed us with open arms. Your kindness is much appreciated.

Troop 2630

Thanks to all of you who help your neighbors without being acknowledged, whether it is trips to doctors, picking up groceries, a phone call, or a visit. We couldn't do it without you.

NEWS FROM TLC

I am happy to report that our day care center is full and has a waiting list. We love reporting good news.

I want to thank everyone who supports us and would like to remind members that the TOPS card are available. They are a good source of fund raising.

I look forward to a successful season this year.

Patty Connors

WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES

St. James has been involved in the Disaster Response Team for the State Conference for many years. Ruth Rathman and I became part of the team at that time. We have never had to respond, thankfully, and have had little to do.

The past couple weeks have been very different. Everyone knows the situation at Gowanda and Silver Creek by watching the news, however, did you know that our response has been quick and effective in many ways that aren't published. I have been putting together an email list to churches and private individuals, both on a local and state level and through our Cleveland office. One Great Hour of Sharing is helping Trinity UCC in Gowanda, Church World Service has been there since the beginning passing out cleaning supplies and kits for those who have lost everything.

The initial help is concluded and now we have moved on to what is called a "Recovery" situation and that will last as long as needed.

For the past couple of weeks I have worked closely with Church World Service, our State Coordinator, Clare Price, and our Cleveland Office Representative, Florence Coppola. I am proud to be on the Recovery Team and have learned first hand what our Blanket Sunday and One Great Hour of Sharing has done. It is in our own back yard this time. When we have our fund raising for these folks, I hope you will remember them in your giving.

Charlotte Lujan

Moses at a Dead Run

From Deuteronomy 34:1-7"Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land. Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died. **"Reflection by Quinn G. Caldwell** Associate Pastor of Old South Church, Boston, MA An old story imagines what happened after Moses died. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are sitting in the afterlife, when they look up and see Moses in the distance. He's headed their way at a dead run, his long white beard flowing behind him, his robes hiked up, and his skinny old man legs flashing. He skids to a stop in front of them, and as soon as he catches his breath, he blurts out, "I have seen it! I have seen the Promised Land! The oath that the Holy One swore to you? He has fulfilled it!" Their faces light up and they begin to praise God. It's such a great image: Moses like a little kid running up to his parents, bursting with news, and the Patriarchs, having lived, and labored, and waited long for God's promise, hearing that it has finally been fulfilled. Here's an even better story: Moses has taken his place next to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They look up, and there, sprinting toward them in the distance, bursting with news about God's faithful action on earth is you. And you run up to them, and you catch your breath, and you open your mouth, and say.... I'll let you decide what you'll say.

Prayer: Faithful God, help me to keep my eyes open for the fulfillment of the promises you made to the ancestors. Let me never miss a single one of your blessings, and give me the grace to never stop telling people about them. Amen.

