

**January 2015**

# The Shepherd's Messenger



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KNOWING JESUS THE GOOD  
 SHEPHERD & SHARING THE  
 RISEN CHRIST WITH ALL.

## Bishop Webb's 2014 Christmas Letter

***"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us ... "* (Titus 2:11-14a)**

As a child, I couldn't wait for the Sears Christmas Catalog to arrive in the mail. I would spend hours looking through every page, carefully marking the items I would consider asking Santa to bring. I received a lot of great Christmas gifts over the years – many I asked for, some I didn't. In the moment, I couldn't imagine life without them; today, there is no proof of them even existing – except in my memory.

As I grew older my focus on Christmas gifts shifted, as I turned my attention to finding the perfect gifts for family members and friends. Shopping for just the right gift to give to those I loved was an adventure, a challenge to conquer. Sometimes, it was apparent that I had indeed found a gift that was perfect; other times, not so much. But the ones I shared gifts with were always grateful, even if I missed the mark.

As we prepare for another celebration of Christmas, I hope you enjoy the tradition of giving and receiving gifts. And as you do, I pray that you will claim in a fresh way and proclaim in a bold way that you know of a gift that is perfect for everyone – a gift that will last forever – and the only gift that will truly change lives: the gift of Jesus.

As you encounter the people in your life, as you meet people where they are this Christmas season, invite them to experience the gift of God's amazing love offered through Jesus. Let us just as urgently seek opportunities to again experience the gift of Jesus for ourselves.

May we be courageous and generous in sharing the gift of Jesus with those who touch our lives. When the gift of Jesus is offered and received, we find love, joy, significance, and meaning will pour into our lives. It is the gift of Jesus, and Jesus alone, that will transform us, as well as the world around us.

I continue to give thanks for the opportunity to be in ministry with the people of God in the Upper New York Conference of The United Methodist Church. You are a gift! I celebrate the many ways in which you offer all that you have SO THAT others may know that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, and filling our lives with hope and promise.

*Continued on Page 6*

***Wishing you a Blessed and Prosperous  
 New Year!***

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Our World situation  
The Rothfus Family  
to those at other residences...

CUBA CMH

Henny van der Horst

WATERS OF WESTFIELD

Dawn Durkee

**Military personnel and their families...**

*All the people on our Military  
Prayer List have returned to  
the states!!!*



Our continued prayers go out to ALL military personnel who are serving our country by active duty & reserve status, both in the States, and abroad. Our List of Military Names is provided by the Weekly Prayer Group for our Military men and women and our world situation.

**Others to keep in prayer:**

A.F. (Student at BRCS)  
Chuck Brooks  
Veronica Clayson  
Braden Currier  
Bill Francis  
Kenny Glass  
Norma Guinnip  
Jeffrey Kellogg  
Stephanie LaFever  
Amber Lunn (2 yrs. old)  
Bruce Metler  
Mina (Doris Wyant's sister)  
Nellie Moses  
Wanda Pease  
Keith Pierce  
Harley Poore  
Kelly Roberts  
Muriel Small  
Dave Soper  
Laroy Spateholts  
Judy Warner  
Martha Wetzler



9 - Marjanne Kunz  
11 - Karl Hodge  
14 - Pastor Tim Gleason  
15 - Lisa Ricci  
Vanessa Clement  
16 - Derek Edwards  
17 - Amanda Clayson  
Chris Berardi  
18 - Janet Enderle  
19 - Butch Holden  
20 - Brittany VanNess  
23 - Jessica Clayson  
Art Higby  
25 - Peter Simmons  
30 - Diane Karle  
31 - Jennie Gleason  
Bernie Hawks  
Kimberly Sweet



**Call Sandra Allen  
for Prayer Chain  
(585) 968-2137**



16 - Leo & Christy Reynolds  
18 - Bruce & Patti Metler

**Statistics Needed: \$1,616.65**

Date	Worship	SS	Offering
11/30	50	16	\$1,497.00
11/30		Rothfus	\$ 133.00
12/7	43	20	\$1,028.00
12/7		Rothfus	\$ 20.00
12/14	52	23	\$2,083.00
12/21	43	19	\$1,436.00

*(Editor's Note: This block does not appear in the Friendship edition of this newsletter.)*

**Cuba January  
Helping Hands**Ushers:

Dean & Cheryl Wildrick

Greeters:

1/4 Open for you  
1/11 Open for you  
1/18 Open for you  
1/25 Open for you

Acolyte:

1/4 Austin Clement  
1/11 Andrew Clement  
1/18 Hunter Scott  
1/25 Andrew Clement

Liturgists

1/4 Tom Krott  
1/11  
1/18 Mike Kunz  
1/25 Cheryl Wildrick

Junior Church

1/4 Mary Hupp  
1/11 Mary Hupp  
1/18 Mary Hupp  
1/25 Mary Hupp

Altar Guild

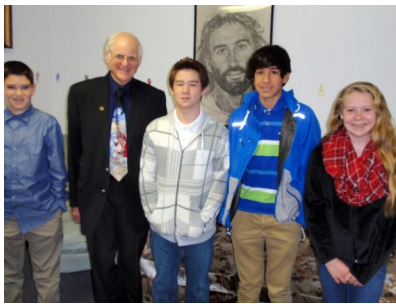
Thela Snow

Coffee Hour

1/18 Vanessa Clement



On December 7, Dr. David Shulman, a family physician at the Olean Medical Group, visited our teen Sunday School class to share his perspectives on Judaism. Dr. Shulman brought many religious artifacts to show the class. He talked about the important Jewish holidays and rites. We learned that Jews follow a lunar calendar and that each week has a holiday, the Sabbath, from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday. Dr. Shulman closed our class with a Jewish prayer which sounded remarkably like one of our oft-used Christian benedictions. Indeed, we share so many religious beliefs with our Jewish brothers and sisters.

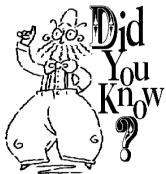


On December 21, Rev. Stan Scoville visited the Teen Sunday School Class to speak on Christianity. In particular, he emphasized what it means to be Methodist in preparation for confirmation classes to begin soon for our students. His talk rounded out our discussions of the five major religions of the world. We are thankful that our former pastor and his wife have decided to worship at Cuba UMC.

*Photos by Mike Kunz*

## DYK:

*Submitted by Dean Wildrick*



On #GivingTuesday, United Methodists donated more than \$2.5 million online through The Advance to support denominational mission and ministries around the world. The General Board of Global Ministries matched the first \$1 million in gifts.

## Epiphany: A time to ...

The word Epiphany means "to make known." On Epiphany, Christians celebrate the full manifestation of God's glory in the coming of Christ. The day of Epiphany (January 6) brings Christmas to a glorious conclusion, but we are not to stop there. The season of Epiphany is God's TIME to reveal God's glory. It is:

**A time to worship** because it deals with the glory of God manifested in Jesus Christ. The season begins with Wise Men coming to worship the newborn King. The season ends with the worship experience on Mount of Transfiguration.

**A time of light** because the light of Christ knows no end; it goes to the ends of the earth. He is the light to lighten the whole world. The light of Christ is not merely to shine on Christians, but through them, for the salvation of humankind.

**A time to witness** because the light of Christ needs to be spread throughout a dark world.

Be an Epiphany. Make known the presence of God by the witness of your life!

—Darrell D. Golnitz  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Kingsport, TN

## On New Year's Day -Kenn Nesbitt

On New Year's Day a year ago,  
I started off the year  
by making resolutions  
that were probably severe.

I said I'd save my money,  
as this seemed so very wise.  
I vowed I would improve my health.  
I swore I'd exercise.

I stated I would do my homework  
every single day.  
I'd brush my teeth religiously  
to ward off tooth decay.

I'd eat my fruits and vegetables  
and keep my bedroom clean.  
I'd treat my sister kindly  
though she's often very mean.

My resolutions lasted me  
about a half a day.  
I promised I would keep them  
but I broke them anyway.

So now I'm fat and penniless.  
My homework's overdue.  
My sister's mad. My teeth are bad.  
My room is messy too.

And yet I think I may have found  
the best of all solutions,  
and this year I've resolved  
to not make ANY resolutions.



## How's the weather ... in Palestine where Jesus lived?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts:

Mt. Hermon —

Jericho —

Jerusalem —

Dead Sea area —

Sea of Galilee —

Mediterranean coast —

## How's the weather where you live?

Finish the sentences below.

Winter is \_\_\_\_\_.

Spring is \_\_\_\_\_.

Summer is \_\_\_\_\_.

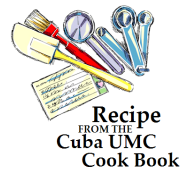
Fall is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Code

= A	= D	= H	= M	= P	= T	= W
= B	= E	= I	= N	= R	= U	= Y
= C	= G	= L	= O	= S	= V	= Z

## CALICO BEANS

Sandy LaFever



1 pound bacon

1 can red kidney beans

1 large can pork & beans

1/3 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup ketchup

1 tsp. salt

1 pound ham-  
burger

1 can butter beans

1/3 cup white sugar

2 TBS vinegar

2 TBS mustard

Brown bacon & hamburger. Drain and add kidney beans & butter beans. Add undrained pork & beans. Mix sugar, vinegar, ketchup, mustard and salt. Add to meat and beans. Bake at 350° for 20 min. or cook in crock pot.





On Sunday, December 14, the Elementary Sunday School Class presented a Christmas program during the worship service and hosted a birthday party for Jesus coffee hour in Wesley Hall after the service.

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Lighting the Advent Candle

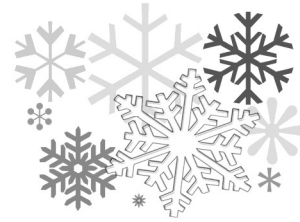


Making Cards

*Photos by Vanessa Clement*



Cuba Sanctuary  
Decorated for Christmas



### FOR LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT TEAMS Guiding Principles of Pastor Tim

1. *There is no correlation between the **size** and health of a church.* Health refers to the **quality** of a church – the **kind** of disciples it is producing. **Health** produces quantity. A church full of genuinely changed people attracts others and grows larger.
2. *There is more than one way to grow a church.* So we never criticize what God is doing. We start where we are and use our assets.
3. *It takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people.* We should extract the lessons and transferable principles from programs working in other churches and apply them in our church. It takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people.
4. *We must never confuse the method with the message.* The message must never change, but, the methods must change! The key is to follow Christ's example of ministering to people. Jesus was contemporary without compromising the truth.
5. If a principle is biblical, it will work anywhere. While we cannot grow our church by trying to be someone else, we **can** grow our church by using biblical principles and then filtering them through our own personality and context.

Bishop Webb's Letter *(Continued from front page)*

As we share the many gifts of Christmas this year, let us not neglect to offer the gift the prophet Isaiah declared so confidently would be perfect for all of us: **"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."** (Isaiah 9:6)

Jodi, Tyler and Ben join me in wishing you a blessed and holy Christmas! May it be filled with joy and expectation! May it be centered on the perfect gift, the only gift that matters – the gift of Jesus!

Merry Christmas!

Bishop Mark J. Webb



## Cuba United Methodist Women News

*Submitted by Judy Zayac*



The UMW met on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> for brunch and meeting.

Judy had totally forgotten to bring up the issue of gifts for families at Christmas. We decided we can do two families @ \$250 each. Judy will get gift cards at WalMart as we have done in the past because they have food, toys, and clothing. Thela will have her daughter-in-law speak with the school nurse to get names and addresses for two families we can help.

Judy spoke with Allegany County Community Action and they would appreciate the fleece hats and mittens. We will get them to Belmont after the New Year.

We assembled the health kits and will work on completing these and also do school kits for UMCOR. We should have them ready to ship in January.

I announced our plan to help two families for Christmas to the congregation, and we thank all who helped out. I was privileged to take the gifts to these families and it is a wonderful holiday experience.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. We welcome all women of the church. Please join us.

Judy



Decorating the church on Sunday, November 30 after a soup & sandwich lunch



Rehearsing for Christmas Program

Junior Church

Photos by Vanessa Clement

*Editor note: This page does not appear in the Friendship edition of this newsletter because of lack of available space.*

## CUBA'S PASTOR – CHURCH COVENANT

Every year, the Upper New York Annual Conference asks that all churches work with their pastors to complete a covenant with their Pastor Parish Relations Committee. Your Management Team and Pastor Tim have worked together to write our covenant for 2015.

What is a covenant? It is a “mutually created commitment to ministry.” It is a written document that describes our intentions to work together to create a mutual ministry for our church. It is based on John Wesley’s theology and is a way of “doing ministry.” In Wesley’s words, it is a way of “watching over one another in love” so that we may grow in holiness.

A covenant is God’s act of inviting us into a grace-filled and life-giving relationship in which we are continually being transformed by the love of God. A covenant is a sign of our acceptance of the grace of God. It is an expression of our desire and intention to be accountable to God and to one another for living a life of personal and social holiness. A covenant is a channel of God’s love – a means of grace – because it establishes the relationships and sets the conditions that keep us attentive to the Spirit, who is always present. (Watching Over One Another In Love: A Wesleyan Model For Ministry Assessment, pg. 16)

In the secular world, this covenant might be referred to as a contract or a performance program. It describes the expectations of someone’s job and the satisfactory completion of those expectations result in a continuing appointment. A covenant is much richer than that. It is negotiated between two parties – the Management Team and the Pastor, and is shared with the District Superintendent. It takes into account the culture and the mission of the church and the congregation, the talents and strengths of the pastor and the expectations of the Annual Conference. Together, the church, through the Management Team, and the pastor, develop goals and clarify expectations for each party to accomplish. It is a “collaborative agreement, mutually negotiated and mutually binding.” The power of a covenant is in that mutuality, the collaborative manner in which it is created, and in the theology of love on which it is based. It is a shared ministry, built on mutual trust and responsibility and holds all parties accountable to the terms of the covenant. I would like to inform you of some of the elements of the 2015 covenant.

In last month’s “The Shepherd’s Messenger”, I shared Cuba UMC’s ministry goals. In addition, my professional goals for growth in the practice of ministry are:

1. To select, build, and coach a planning task force of three key lay persons to assess the needs of people in Cuba village and township.
2. To select, build and coach a communications committee of three people experienced in operating small businesses to promote our Sunday school program in the community and within the congregation.
3. To negotiate the professional priorities on my time and energy for 2015-16 with the management team in light of the existing situation of the church so that the management team and I are in agreement on the congregation’s expectations of me as a part-time pastor.
4. To manage complicated emotional relationships as a healthy, non-anxious leader, so that there is a decrease in angry exchanges among church leadership.

My spiritual growth goals involve balancing my ministry time with personal time, including taking all my vacation time in order to spend more time with Jennie.

The Management Team’s goal for growth in its PPRC ministry is to maintain open and honest communications with each other, the Pastor, and the congregation. We have agreed that I will lead a group devotional at each regular Management Team meeting. We have also agreed on specific ways to strengthen our covenant relationship, learn together, and assess our progress toward our goals.

*(This page does not appear in the Friendship edition of this newsletter)*



# Friendship UMC

## Friendship United Methodist Women News

Submitted by President Vicki Baker



The UMW met on Th., Dec. 11 for their annual Christmas Lunch Mtg. The group will be helping three local families with certificates for groceries, and will be giving a monetary donation to the church. They have already given funds to the Mission Agape for holiday meals. This group should be recognized for their wonderful mission work.

Any woman may be part of UMW. They meet the second Thursday of the month, excluding May, July & August. The next meeting will be Jan. 8 at noon at the church. Bring your sandwich and soup will be provided for lunch. Program will be the Call to Prayer and Self Denial by Roberta Butler. Contact any member for more information.



Junior Church

This year in Junior Church, we have been very busy. We typically have 4 children and sometimes as many as 9. We have been going through the "One Room Sunday School" curriculum. We have learned many things from communion to the birth of Jesus. We really enjoy having your children in junior church. Thank you so much for letting us get to know your children.

*Emily Nelson*

## --The Church Chrismon Tree

*"Thank you for making a dream come true. It took my breath away when I saw the tree so perfectly decorated. I could not have done it without the help and dedication of the whole congregation." Catherine*



# Friendship UMC

## January Birthdays

4 Joyce Weatherly  
 7 Richard Baker  
 9 Marilyn Cimbricz  
 14 Tim Gleason  
 17 Olivia Marks  
 18 Charis Ruxton  
 19 Madeline Sortore  
 20 Victoria Krisher  
 22 Deanne Tyler  
 27 Fred Southwick  
 31 Jennie Gleason  
 Lindsey Hall



Nancy Sortore  
 Jerry Ward  
 Marlee Talbot  
 Diana Langdon



**For Prayer Chain**, call  
 Roberta Butler 973-2351  
 or Pat Kupiec 808-7345

## **Hand-to-Plow Update**

Many of you do not know about Hand-to-Plow. I would like to share what it is as I go through the training. So far, I have attended two sessions and have read one of the three books. First of all, Hand-to-Plow is not a program; it is a process that is unique to each church. The purpose of the training is to help revitalize a congregation.

What can laity do to participate in revitalization?

Focus on being a disciple of Jesus Christ rather than a member of a congregation.

Be open to change. The world around the church has changed a great deal over the past decades. This is not going to stop happening. The church must also be willing to change so that they may help the changing world encounter the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Change can be scary, and yet, exciting too. Many of us don't always accept change easily. Change can be step-by-step or radical. Hand-to-Plow teaches us that change is step-by-step and is decided by the unique needs of each congregation.

I look forward to reading the next book and attending the next session. I love my peer learning group (covenant group). I'm also anxious to learn the tools to help with revitalizing us and sharing them with others.

*Sandy Golden*

# January 2015

Sunday Worship 11:00 am  
 Sunday School 10:00 am  
 Cuba Dates  
 (c)

Sunday Worship 9:30 am  
 Sunday School  
 Friendship Dates  
 (F)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> (F) Lunch On Us 11:30-12:30
<b>4</b> (C) UMW Food Pantry Collection	<b>5</b> (F) SPRC Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Friendship Choir 6:30 pm  Cuba Choir 7:00 pm	<b>8</b> (F) UMW Mtg. at Noon At the Church	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Kung Fu 6-8a Cuba UMW 10:00 am (F) Lunch On Us 11:30-12:30
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> (F) O.E.S. Mtg. 11:30 am  Cuba Management Team 6:30 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Friendship Choir 6:30 pm  Cuba Choir 7:00 pm	<b>15</b> (F) WIC	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Kung Fu 6-8 a  (F) Trustee Breakfast (F) Lunch On Us 11:30-12:30
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Feb. Newsletter Deadline  (c) Leadership Team 7:00 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Friendship Choir 6:30 pm  Cuba Choir 7:00 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Kung Fu 6-8:00 am (F) Lunch On Us 11:30-12:30
<b>25</b> Cuba Rothfus Offering	<b>26</b> (F) O.E.S. Mtg. 11:30 am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Friendship Choir 6:30 pm  Cuba Choir 7:00 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Kung Fu 6-8 a (F) Lunch On Us 11:30-12:30



# The Shepherd's Messenger

CUBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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WWW.CUBAUMC.ORG • REV. TIM GLEASON



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

«AddressBlock»

*The Shepherd's Messenger* is a publication of the Cuba United Methodist Church, and is published monthly to report news & keep members and friends informed of church programs and events. Deadline for article submission is the third Monday of each month at noon. Please email articles to Editor's email address, or drop articles off to the church office.

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