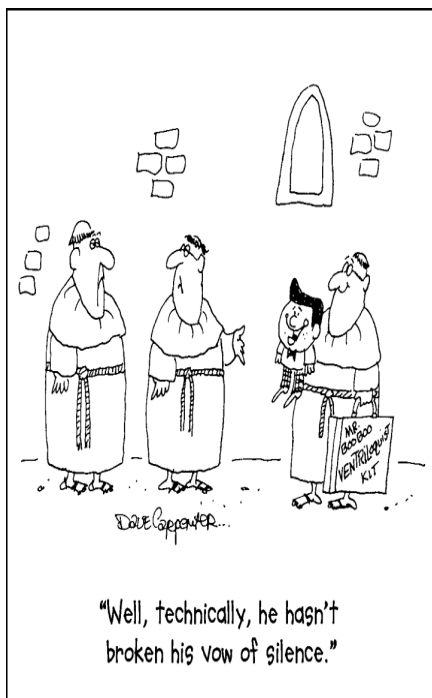


# The Shepherd's Messenger



October 2011

## VACATION Pastor Sunny's Rays



An old lady from Massachusetts was riding in a car with her family when they crashed into a river. The rescue team got there in a matter of minutes and pulled her out. She did though suffer some brain damage, which may explain why she sued both the driver and the rescue divers that saved her life.

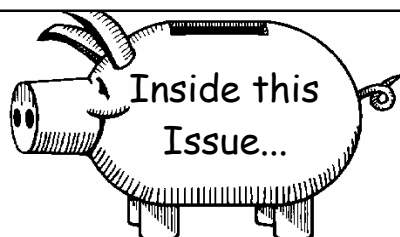
An idiot sued **Michael Jordan** because he says Michael Jordan looks like him. This supposedly causes people everywhere to approach him. He sued Michael Jordan **AND** the founder of **Nike**, Phil Knight, for **\$832** million dollars.

Aren't these about the silliest things you've ever heard in your life? I couldn't believe it as I was sitting with my morning cup of coffee and watching the news. These people must have way more time on their hands than I do, just to think of these things. The thought that went through my caffeine deprived brain at that time of the morning was, "Ya know if people spent just half as much time praying as they do complaining, this world would be a better place."

Prayer is the one of the most powerful tools we have in our faith life. It can change lives and move mountains. It is through prayer that we can find comfort, peace, grace and mercy. It is through prayer that we can touch the lives of people even those who live far away from us.

Case in point: One of our own church family members related a story that exhibits that very fact. Jane's parents divorced when she was young and she has a step-brother from her mother's remarriage, and a step-sister from her father's remarriage. Now keep in mind that the only link that these two people have is Jane. They aren't connected in any other way. As often happens in families, there were problems between siblings as the parents were aging and passing away. Jane had not been in contact with her step-sister who lives in Florida nor with her step-brother who lives in Arkansas for many years. Time passes as it often does and Jane realized that she missed these two people being a part of her life, so she started praying about it. She ask God to repair the damage and bring them back into her life. About 3 weeks ago she was at her home, lying on the couch watching T.V. when someone knocked on her door. When she opened the door, it was her step-sister from Florida. She told Jane that she had been all over Cuba looking for her and just wanted to apologize for the argument that they had when Dad was ill. They went all over looking up old friends and enjoying each other's company. They went into the Kopper Keg that evening for dinner and while they were eating Jane's cell phone rang. It was her step-brother from Arkansas calling to apologize. Now if you don't have "goose bumps" right now then you need to read this again. He had no idea that Jane's step-sister was there, he has no relationship with her, so there is no way that they could have known what was happening. Jane was ecstatic with the answer to her prayer. The moral of the story ( in case you missed it) is that prayer works.

(continued on page 6)



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- 1- Debbie Carlson
- 2 - Deb Battistoni  
Natasha Dixon
- 4 - Marilyn Luckey  
Jason Stadler  
Dwane Wildrick
- 6 - Jeanne Bussiere
- 10 - Bryce Cilvick  
Sandy Tsujimoto
- 11 - Doug Clayson  
Debbie Holcomb  
Doug Lopes  
Linda Sweet
- 12 - Christine Hewitt  
Ruth Holden
- 14 - Scott Edwards  
Jim Juiliano
- 15 - Jacob James
- 16 - Bob Campbell  
Mike Kunz
- 17 - Lynnette Clayson  
Shana Hindman  
Rick Sutphin  
Parker VanNess
- 18 - Fred Pearce  
Karrie White
- 20 - Reiken Reynolds  
Taylor Rose
- 21 - Travis Clayson  
Neil Edwards
- 23 - Leah Scoville  
Alan Sweet
- 24 - Doris Halstead
- 26 - Sierra Rose  
Scott Soule
- 28 - Cheryl Holden
- 29 - Bea Mason
- 30 - Robin Torpey
- 31 - Elroy Brickey



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 1- Ed & Debbie Rothfus
- 5- Duane & Deborah Hopkins
- 10- Fred & Peggy Pearce
- 11- Jim & Debby Holcomb
- 15- Bruce & Edwin Stubbs
- 16- Tom & Judy Krott  
Derek & Vanessa Clement
- 18- Merle & Paula Burlingame
- 21- Derwood & Rita Say
- 23- James & Cheryl Steen



## Won By One

*By Sandy Tsujimoto*

***If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? – 1 John 3:17***

On August 14-21, Joshua and I were blessed beyond words as we entered the mission field in Harmons, Jamaica. It was an experience that neither of us will ever forget. Prior to our leaving, Joshua and I prayed that God would keep us safe as we traveled to and from Harmons and we prayed that God would use us during this week to do whatever was needed for the people of this village. God was with us every morning at each work site, every afternoon while we were taking a break, every conversation we may have had, every evening on the way home, every night at dinner, and every night at devotion time. God was with us everywhere we were during this week. We felt His presence in every event that took place. It was an experience of a lifetime and we are looking forward to our next trip in the near future.

Our group was able to complete two homes and one foundation, weed three greenhouses, carry marl (crushed limestone), organize clothing and other donated items, work at the new fish farm, construct a wooden building for shade, build relationships and share the word of God. Each experience was as rewarding as the others.

After one week of serving, both Joshua and I came to realize that this trip had far more benefits for us than it did for the people of Harmons, Jamaica. The true giving was the love we felt from the people we met within our group and within the village. We were sincerely blessed.

Thank you to our congregation, family and friends who continued to pray for us before, during and after our return. We also thank you for your many donations that we were able to take with us to help those in need.

The list of needs continues and we begin our planning for the next trip in two years. If you have items that you would like to donate, please do not hesitate to let me know and I will make sure the items get to Harmons, Jamaica.

# Please Pray For...

Our World situation  
The Rothfus Family



## **CUBA MEMORIAL**

Dick Bowers  
Carmalitta Butts  
Lucille Wildrick  
Laura Clayson  
Pearl Franklin

## **ABSOLUT HOUGHTON**

John Lawton

## **WATERS OF WEST FIELD**

Dawn Durkee

## **BATH VA CENER**

John Visser

## **EDEN HEIGHTS- BUFFALO**

Jane Wright

## **OLEAN PINES**

Adaline Wakefield

## **Eden Heights of Olean**

Evelyn Steen



Military personnel and  
their  
families...

Bob Aaronson  
Daniel Bunk  
Kevin Desaults  
Brad Frank  
Mark Keenan  
Justin Linza  
Carl Randall  
Alfred Reynolds  
Greg Reynolds  
Justin Sweet  
Dan Thompson  
Ron Truax  
Miles Ward  
Eric Young  
Justin Sweet  
John Curtis Quattrini

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. Gatherings are held on Monday's at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels Roman Catholic Church at 50 South Street in Cuba. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Ray Perkins at 585-968-1467



USHERS: Boy Scouts

## GREETERS

10/2 Butch & Mary Ann Pfouts  
10/9: Mike & Sandy Lafever  
10/16: ***Reserved For You! \****  
10/23 ***Reserved For You! \****  
10/30: Alan & Judy Zayac

## LITURGIST:

2: Deb Battistoni  
9: Doris Wyant  
16: Shirley Mosher  
23: ***Reserved For You! \****  
30: Cindy Dutton

## ACOLYTES:

2: Andrew Clement  
9: Katelyn Cornell  
16: Jasmyn Dorsey  
23: Josh Enderle  
30: Josh Tsujimoto

## Coffee Hour Hosts

Rob & Katelyn Cornell  
Louis & Patti Petroni

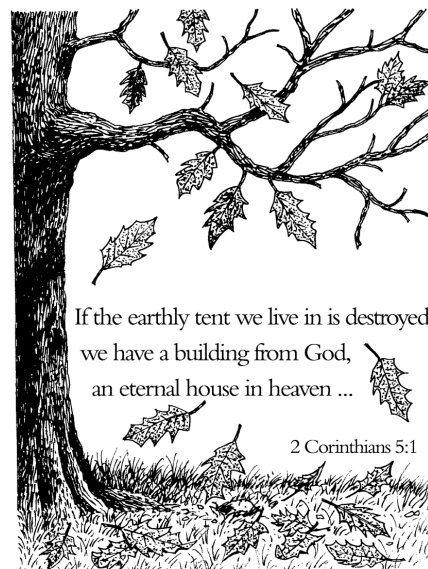
## Communion Stewards:

Judy Zayac & Liz Abraham

## Prayer List Update

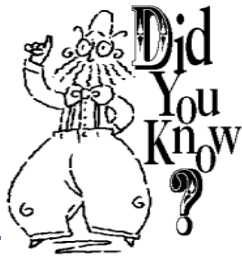
### **Please keep our prayer list up to date.**

Requests made in assure proper spelling. You can do this in the attendance pads on Sundays, or drop your request off at the office, or email. If you call your request in, please spell out the name.



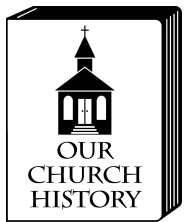
If the earthly tent we live in is destroyed,  
we have a building from God,  
an eternal house in heaven ...

2 Corinthians 5:1



*Submitted by  
Dean Wildrick*

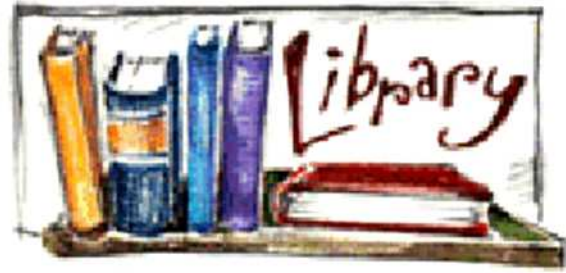
The flooding of the Susquehanna River has had major consequences for the United Methodist conference of the same name. Since the river spans the Susquehanna Annual (regional) Conference from north to south, floodwaters affected eight of its 11 districts, said the Rev. Larry Siikanen, conference disaster coordinator. Across the Northeastern United States, United Methodists were continuing to respond Sept. 12 to the one-two punch of flooding caused consecutively by Tropical Storms Irene and Lee.



THE CUMC HISTORIAN RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO CONTRIBUTE PICTURES WHICH SHOW THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH. (If you need a copy made, I'll be very happy to comply.)

As I stated many months previously: A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS.

Thank you. Donna Y Lawton, CUMC Historian



*Submitted by Cindy Dutton*

Author Christopher Webber will speak at the Cuba Circulating Library on Wednesday September 28 at 7pm. Webber's latest book is "American to the Backbone" the incredible story of a forgotten hero of nineteenth century America, a former slave named James Pennington, who became a Yale scholar, congregational pastor and international leader of the Antebellum abolitionist movement. In 1927, at the age of 19, scared and illiterate, Pennington escaped and soon became one of the leading voices against slavery prior to the Civil War. As he fought for equal rights in America, Pennington's voice was not just limited to the pulpit. He wrote the first "History of the Colored People" as well as a careful study of the moral basis for civil disobedience. More than a century before Rosa Parks took her famous bus ride, Pennington challenged segregated seating on NYC street cars.

The author's father was in charge of Episcopal churches in Cuba, Friendship and Angelica from 1929 - 1949. The author lived in Cuba until 1946 when he left for school. He is a retired Rector and Vicar who has served churches in NY, Connecticut and Japan.

He has many fond memories of his childhood in Cuba and is looking forward to speaking here. His appearance is being funded by the Friends of the Cuba Library.

## UMW HAPPENINGS

*Submitted by Maggie Watson*



There were 11 ladies at the Pot Luck Brunch where we feasted on grapes, sweet rolls, summer pie, cheese, meat casseroles, huge muffins, scrambled eggs and home fries and coffee cakes. Now if you weren't there, you really missed some great food.

Maggie opened with a welcome back prayer about starting a brand new year seeking the One who gives us the new year and to find in Him the paths we should follow; He is our guidance. Our scripture reading was from Genesis 1:1-5 and each lady was given a book mark.

Mary Ann gave the treasurer report and also at this time, she presented a world service program which we have done in the past by sending foil heaters and goat to some very needy people. We voted to do this again. We also voted not to sell calendars again as it was pointed out that there were many free calendars available.

The kitchen mats have been ordered. The Trustees and the UMW are paying for these. The color will be brown.

The hostess sign-up sheet was passed around with may months to be filled. Please see Mary Ann to pick your month.

It was suggested that Donna Derk be our guess speaker on Women's Sunday (yet to be decided) about her trip to Africa.

Judy will speak to Thela about altar flowers.

The Rummage sale was talked about by Deb, please see her for work days and nights.

Maggie mentioned out tea party at the Chautauqua Lake Methodist house in July which she deemed successful. Maybe we can do this again and get more ladies to participate. It is a beautiful ride and beautiful place. The people who came to the tea were very appreciative.

The next meeting is Saturday October 15, at 10:00am. We will be buying breakfast from the Soco Girls (Community girls cheer leading team), and move up stairs for the meeting. **ALL LADIES ARE INVITED.**

The ladies were thanked for all their good food and meeting adjourned at 11:00am.



## **TORTENLINI SOUP**



Cindy Dutton

1 8oz bag cheese tortellini  
3 14 oz cans chicken broth

1 16 oz diced tomatoes

1 16 oz can chick peas/garbanzo beans, drained

1 box (10 oz) frozen chopped spinach, thawed

2 cloves garlic, minced or pressed

1 tsp. dried basil

2 TBS chopped fresh parsley (optional)

Parmesan cheese''''''

Bring tortellini in chicken broth to a boil, simmer 5 minutes. Then add remaining ingredients. Return to boil, then reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes. Serve with parmesan cheese to top each bowl. Yield: 8 cups.



## Summer Shenanigans

*Submitted by Sandy Tsujimoto*

The summer outreach program for middle school students named “Summer Shenanigans” sponsored by the Cuba United Methodist Church was a huge success. The program consisted of community service projects as well as fellowship activities throughout the summer season. Over 50 children participated in the Friday activities. We are proud to say that our group did the following community service projects and activities:

- July 15                      Canoeing, Kayaking and Swimming, Cuba Lake
- July 22                      Weeding/Clean-up of downtown Cuba
- July 29                      Continue with Weeding/ downtown clean-up
- Aug 5                        Minute to Win it Games, Cuba United Methodist
- Aug 12                      Bowling/Belmont
- Aug 26                      Washing of Police and Ambulance Vehicles, Cuba  
Visit to Nursing Home to deliver cards/plants,  
Cuba Memorial Hospital

“Summer Shenanigans” was a huge success because of volunteers who gave of their time and donations. A special thank you to Mike and Marijanna, Nick and Liz, John and Mary, Shameka, Home Depot, Wally and Maggie, everyone who donated money and snack items, Paul, our high school youth, Mr. and Mrs. Gordan, Keith, and Mr. Sprague. We look forward to next summer!



## SUNNY'S RAYS

*(continued from page 1)*

right now then you need to read this again. He had no idea that Jane's step-sister was there, he has no relationship with her, so there is no way that they could have known what was happening. Jane was ecstatic with the answer to her prayer. The moral of the story ( in case you missed it) is that prayer works.

What a testament to what God can do!! Now, understand that we don't always get the answer that we want but we always get the answer that is best. Turn in your bible to Romans 8:28: *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”* Now if you stop to think about it, that is really cool. I know just from the life Larry and I have had together, that every single time we have had the rug pulled out from under us, or at least we thought it had been, it always, without fail has turned out to be the best thing that could have happened to us. Does that mean it was easy? Goodness, no. There were times in the midst of the chaos that one or both of us thought God had utterly deserted us and left us to fend for ourselves. There were times when we were so angry with God that we couldn't see straight. But God has all the patience in the world with us poor, stubborn, ornery human beings. He remains calm, steadfast, and **there**, ready to pour out his grace and if we listen, his guidance.

So the next time you feel yourself about to complain about some flub in the newsletter, or someone at church has irritated you for some reason or someone has cut you off in traffic, stop the complaining and just go to God in prayer. Ask God to pour out his grace and calm your soul and to bless whoever has upset your apple cart. You just might be surprised at how much better the world is because you prayed. And remember that God loves you and so do we.

**Pastor Sunny**

## **From Your Finance Committee**

**Most Stewardship articles begin by talking about the joy of giving, and usually will throw in a couple of scriptures concerning what Jesus and the Heavenly Father had to say about stewardship so as to illustrate the point that they were trying to convey to their audience.**

**I am writing today to tell you that I make my pledge to the Cuba United Methodist Church's Stewardship campaign every year. I pledge because I want Cuba UMC to exist--and given your generosity, to thrive--because if it didn't there are so many things about it that you and I and the community would miss terribly. Most would miss having that chunk of time on a Sunday that they can spend thinking about the Holy, in a place where the disenfranchised and the marginalized can feel accepted and loved. You would miss the community of friends and neighbors that have developed through this church, some of whom might (regrettably) only be seen at worship or church-sponsored events. The music would be missed. Some would even miss the occasional misunderstanding that we seem to have every year or two; it is proof that we really are a family and that we care deeply! And I am sure that you can think of a thousand other things that would be missed if Cuba UMC didn't exist anymore. Does that pain your heart? I hope it does, cause it pains mine.**

**Many churches are struggling because they have large facilities and fewer members due to death and some moving due to job insecurity here or the weather and taxes. Some churches have had to cut their mission giving by as much as 90%. We have stayed true to our commitment to outreach here in our community, and due to the faithfulness and caring of the UMW we have gone beyond our local community and out into the world. We should celebrate that. Last year we began encouraging everyone to look at our giving to the church so that we can keep this amazing community of faith going...and going in the way that most fits our needs. This year we are continuing this focus hoping that people will pledge a percentage of their income and possibly increase their giving. Please begin thinking prayerfully, progressively, and proportionally about your giving.**

**In the current uncertainty of our financial times, you may have pause about declaring a pledge, but we would encourage you by this writing that now is the perfect time to stand up and claim your priorities. Now is the time to say, this is my church family and it is an ultimate priority. It is where I receive my spiritual nourishment. It is the place that challenges me to live beyond the voice of culture to the freer life of faith.**

**You are a congregation of generous people. May you give generously to the church's ministry and mission this year. As you give, may you know the joy of giving and the satisfaction of knowing what an important presence this church is in the world.**

**So please return your pledge card by our Commitment Sunday, October 23, when Rev. Patrick Holder will be our guest speaker. And please take note that under no circumstances will there be any legal action taken against anyone who might become unable to meet their pledge. This is truly about having the presence and the ability to share God's love and plan of salvation in a broken and hurting world. Let's all give to be a part of God's plan by pledging to our church.**

**May God Bless and keep you all,**

**In Christ's love and service  
Pastor Sunny and the Finance Committee**







# October

November 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Kung Fu 6-8a
<b>2</b> Worship 10:00a S/S 11:15am	<b>3</b> PPR 6:00p	<b>4</b> Ad Council 6:00p	<b>5</b> Choir Practice 7p	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
				UMW FALL RUMMAGE SALE		
<b>9</b> Worship 10:00a S/S 11:15am	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Finance 6p	<b>12</b> Choir Practice 7p	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> UMW & Soco Breakfast
<b>16</b> Worship 10:00a S/S 11:15am	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Choir Practice 7p	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Kung Fu 6-8a
<b>23</b> Commitment Sunday	<b>24</b> Trustees 7:00p	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Choir Practice 7p	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Lock In 8am-8pm	<b>29</b> Kung Fu 6-8a
<b>30</b> Worship 10:00a S/S 11:15am	<b>31</b>					

# The Shepherd's Messenger

CUBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

49 East Main St. • Cuba, NY 14727

www.cubaumc.org • PASTOR SUNNY MAUSER

OCTOBER 2010



**Autumn Color**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*The Shepherd's Messenger* is a publication of the Cuba United Methodist Church, and is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about the *Messenger's* people.

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