

October 2015

The Shepherd's Messenger



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

FROM
Pastor
Burt



Members and Friends of Cuba United Methodist Church

Grace and Peace to you and yours in the name of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ!

I am honored to be selected to be your interim pastor for the next 9 months. In order for you to be more familiar with who I am, let me share some basic information at this time.

I am the oldest of 7 children, born and raised in the small town of La Fayette, New York, a few miles south of Syracuse.

I am a graduate of La Fayette Central School and attended Brockport State College where I received both my Bachelor of Science and Master's Degrees in education.

I taught school for 25+ years teaching at a variety of elementary levels as well as middle school math.

I married my high school sweetheart, Jeanie, and we have been married for 49 years. We have 2 children, a boy and a girl. Each is married, and we have 5 grandchildren ages 9-23. They keep us young.

My initial call to ministry came to me at 12 years old as a camper at Camp Casawasco. I guess I was a slow learner because I didn't really pay attention to it until the early 1980's.

I attended Colgate - Rochester Divinity School and received my Master of Divinity Degree. I was ordained elder in 1988.

I have served several churches in the old Western New York Conference including Stafford, North Ridge, Cherry Creek, Conewango Valley, Leon, Indian Falls, Dalton, Nunda, and West Sparta.

I retired in 2011 and have since served the conference in interim ministry situations in Honeoye, Springwater, Naples and Wellsville churches, serving from 1 to 6 months at a time.

I am a conservative evangelical believer who loves the Lord and serving His church. God has brought us together, and together we will listen and discern what that plan is going forward.

I will be praying for you, individually and collectively and I covet your prayers for me.

I trust in the Holy Spirit's presence with us to empower us to lift high the cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Together in Cuba.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Burt
Rev. Burton L. Smith, Jr.

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...

Brandon Snyder - Afghanistan



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:

Barb & John Brant
Chuck Brooks
Veronica Clayson
Virginia Clayson
Ray Climie
Jan Congdon
Braden Currier
Sid Emmons
Joyce Enderle
Art Higby
Jeffrey Kellogg
Stephanie LaFever
Amber McCarthy & Family
Bruce Metler
Wanda Pease
Keith Pierce
Kerigan Pierce
Family & Friends of Harley Poore
Shirley Poore
Leroy Sherwood
Muriel Small
Laroy Spateholts
Carl Wagner
Judy Warner
Ken Wyant



- 2 - Deb Battistoni
Naomi Scoville
- 4 - Marilyn Luckey
Dwane Wildrick
- 10 - Hannah Scoville
Sandy Tsujimoto
- 11 - Doug Clayson
- 12 - Ruth Holden
- 13 - Judy Kettering
- 16 - Bob Campbell
Mike Kunz
- 17 - Lynnette Clayson
- 18 - Fred Pearce
- 23 - Leah Scoville
Alan Sweet
- 26 - Sierra Rose
- 28 - Cheryl Holden

Statistics**Needed: \$1,657**

Date	Worship	SS	Offering
8/30	21	-	\$ 798.00
8/30		Rothfus	\$ 65.00
9/6	31		\$1,635.00
9/13	25	10	\$1,406.00
9/20	27	10	\$1,007.00
9/27	20	9	\$1,731.65
9/27		Rothfus	\$ 163.00

Cuba October Helping HandsUshers:

Dean & Cheryl Wildrick

Greeters:

10/4 *Open for you*
10/11 *Open for you*
10/18 *Open for you*
10/25 *Open for you*

Acolyte:

10/4
10/11
10/18
10/25

Liturgists

10/4
10/11
10/18
10/25

Altar Guild

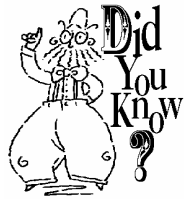
Thela Snow & Darcy Eastham



- 10 - Fred & Peggy Pearce
- 16 - Vanessa & Derek Clement
Tom & Judy Krott
- 21 - Derwood & Rita Say



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

DYK:*Submitted by Dean Wildrick*

I am using a quote from Mission Central's news letter this month.... There are the "haves"—who have shelter, food, clothing and much more. There are the "have nots"—who are without shelter, adequate food or clothing. Honestly, many times the suffering seem more in touch with God, expressing gratitude for every "little" thing they have. When asked how they are surviving, the reply is almost universal, "By the Grace of God, we are ok." What may seem small and simple to us is a much greater symbol for those who receive.



Please let the office know when you are flying South so you don't miss a newsletter. Same applies when you fly back North.



Do you know of someone who needs a note of cheer? Someone who might be sick, in the hospital, or has a loved one who has passed away?

If you do, please call **Sue Simmons at 585-968-1135**. She is the UMW's **Cheer person**. She sends out cards to those in need of some cheer, so please contact her to let her know.

CUBA UMW MEETING

September 12, 2015

Submitted by Shirley Poore

Thela provided refreshments & opened the meeting with a prayer. Had a list for us to discuss & plan.

Barb Spateholts gave a treasure's report. The UMCOR kits have been sent out. Will complete School kits in November.

Officers are:

President - Thela Snow. Ruth Holden will assist her when she can.

Barb Spateholts - Treasurer

Shirley Poore - Secretary

Sue Simmons - Cheer Chairperson

No meeting in October - Will have the TRASH & TREASURES SALE.

5th, 6th, & 7th we will set up.

There will be signup sheet in church for helpers.

Thursday, open 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Friday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Saturday Bag sale 9:00 AM - Noon

November meeting may be 3rd week, instead of 2nd week.

Ruth will call everyone with date & reminder.

Also will be in November newsletter.

Adult Sunday School Class



Meets at 9:50 am in Adult Sunday School Room.

A Time of learning about God's Big Picture.

What was, what is, and what will be.



UMW Fall Trash & Treasures Sale

Thursday, October 8, 6 - 8 pm

Friday, October 9, 9 am - Noon

Saturday October 10, 9 am - Noon (Bag Sale)

2 Timothy 3:16-17

The books and subjects that we study in school prepare us for our futures and our lives. Studying the Bible is important also. Find what Paul wrote to his young helper, Timothy.

First write a word to fit each definition. Then transfer the letters to the lines below.

Printed and bound sheets of paper	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>			
They form the alphabet	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
One who is learning	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
A small test	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>			
A group of relatives	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	
To offer something	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>32</u>			
Glad	<u>33</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>37</u>		
Group who works together	<u>38</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>41</u>			

" 24 5 27 11 38 10 26 35 7 14 10 6 21 11 29 2 15
 1 10 9 24 18 33 6 15 24 17 15 21 12
 20 11 40 23 14 27 23 3 10 13 16 24 38 33 21 17 29 '
 39 9 1 14 4 21 17 29 ' 38 2 10 10 40 38 8 21 17 29
 34 17 15 7 10 24 21 17 21 17 29 26 17
 39 30 29 33 8 9 3 14 11 17 32 12 11 "

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

PUMPKIN CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

Thela Snow

- 1 cup cooked or canned pumpkin (w/o spice)
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup oil
- 1 egg
- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- ½ cup chopped nuts (optional)



Recipe
FROM THE
Cuba UMC
Cook Book

Mix pumpkin, sugar, oil, egg and vanilla in large bowl. Combine flour, baking powder, salt and cinnamon together and add to pumpkin mixture. Mix baking soda in the milk, and add to pumpkin mixture. Mix well, and fold in chips and nuts. Spread in greased 10" by 13" jelly roll pan. Bake 375° for 15 minutes. Can be made into drop cookie, baking for 10 minutes.

This I believe - Thoughts on Stewardship (Written by a former member)



I believe that stewardship is more than a pledge card commitment. Stewardship is a perspective on life; an embracing of God's gifts without clinging to them, a ceding of control and an opening up of life to receive the blessings and growth which God wishes you to experience.

My parents have and do live lives of stewardship. Their examples have permeated my childhood, and I'd like to share a few examples with you this morning. My paternal grandmother died before I was born. But as I understand it, she vehemently believed that no work was done on Sunday that wasn't absolutely necessary. Suppers were simple, and cold, for instance. My father's stance on that issue had softened slightly when I arrived, but it was always clear as a kid that Sundays were God's day. We had a simple meal for lunch and popcorn and ice cream for dinner. And dishes waited until the morning. We were present at church without fail unless ill or traveling. It wasn't unusual to me, it just **was**.

I also remember the solemnity with which my father would write the tithe check, every Sunday morning. It was an honor for my brother or me to be chosen to put it in the plate. Giving that money, however much it was, was as non-negotiable to do as the idea of not scrubbing the bathtub on the Sabbath. It was not tied to finances, it was just steady, and ever present. On the rare occasion we missed church, it was not a "free week", dad just mailed that check instead. It just **was**, as regular and reliable as Sunday itself.

My mother, a stay-at-home mom, had her own portion of the family finances which she oversaw. She taught me that tithing came in many forms - some actually quite fun. She was often used by God as a Secret Santa of sorts, helping wherever she saw need. Some of the members of our poor, rural community received anonymous grocery gift cards in tight months, got some Christmas presents for their children, or a hot meal after a family funeral through my mother's stewardship.

By the time I was out on my own, giving and church attendance were deeply ingrained within me. However, as humans are want to do, I frequently missed the point. I remember times in grad school or college where I literally had no cash for the offering and elected not to go to church because of it. More recently, my failings in time stewardship were all those Sunday's where I as a young mother have just not had the "time" to go to church. In these times of challenge, once I actually learned to pay attention, I could then begin to hear God's gentle whisper: *perhaps a change in perspective is needed*. The problem was, of course, not my lack of funds or time, but *my fear of putting God first in my life*. This insight was key. When God is given first fruits, the rest seems to fall into place.

I am fortunate to now have a steady and reliable job. I have two primary bank accounts. A set percentage, every paycheck goes in one to use as God directs. The rest we live on. I will tell you that financially, from an Earthly perspective, it makes no sense. My family is deeply in debt from educational costs and a significant loss of income from three beloved but unpaid maternity leaves. Times have been tight, times have been very tight. But we have always, **always** been taken care of.

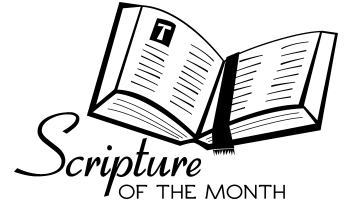
Time is also a precious commodity in my house: I work days, _____ works nights and weekends, we have three young children. Weekends have been the time to squeeze in all the stuff on the to-do list, traditionally leaving Sundays feeling very hectic and draining. With all that we have to get done, how can we possibly find time for God? But since my family has most recently adopted my grandmother's old rule that Sundays are for God and family, suddenly my life has felt much more expansive.

Continued on Page 6



Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:6

"Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them (trials or troubles) because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you." NSRV



Grace and Peace to you and yours in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

In life and in church we will have times of trial, tribulations, uncertainty and even darkness.

Let me share a story with you from a Native American Tribe which points out a great truth for us. ("Soul Salsa" Leonard Sweet, Zondervan 2000)

"When young braves turned 13 on the night of their birthday, they were blindfolded and taken several miles away. When he took off the blindfold, he found he was deep in the midst of the forest. He had to stay there all night.

Every time a twig snapped, he probably visualized a wild animal ready to pounce. Every time a wolf howled, he imagined a wolf leaping out of the darkness. Every time the wind blew, he wondered what more sinister sound it masked.

After what seemed to be an eternity, the first rays of sunlight lightened the interior of the forest.

Looking around, the boy saw flowers, trees, and the outline of the path.

Then to his utter astonishment, he saw the figure of a man standing just a few feet away armed with a bow and arrow. It was his FATHER, who had been there all night long watching over him."

Likewise, Our God is always present with us in times of trial, tribulation, or turmoil. Some may feel uncertain about your church right now, however we need to remember these words from Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and bold ; have no fear of them ... and Matthew 28:20b, "Remember I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Rest assured God is with us! His presence is unseen , but it is more real than life itself.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Burt

This I believe - Thoughts on Stewardship (Continued from Page 5)

I believe that ALL resources: time, energy, talents and money, are from God. Stewardship is the recognition that these resources are not gifts for our use, but rather trust funds for us to manage and direct. What I have learned is that only in releasing my tight grip on these things that they begin to serve their Divine purpose and thus flow more freely. Rather than pinching my finances, my "God account" gives me the ability to feel generous and philanthropic and so very grateful for all that I have. In, fact, no matter how lean my primary checking account might be, when I am working with God's funds to do God's work, I feel abundance. Likewise, when Sunday is set aside for God and family, and there is an outright ban on the "to do" list, rather than tightening my time constraints, it has freed me to enjoy my life, my spouse and my children. Rather than draining me to squeeze in all that must be done, I greet the day with welcome, joy and peace.

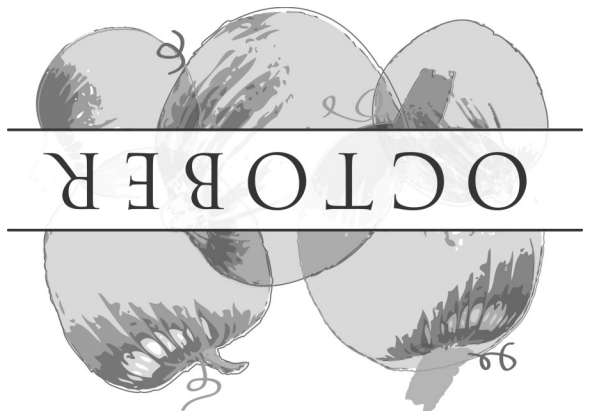
Stewardship is not a pledge commitment card, or a personal promise to show up on Sundays. It is a way of seeing the world, and all of the good things in it, as part of God, and understanding that by giving freely, we are most able to receive. I invite you to also live the richness that is stewardship of God's blessings.

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY 11:00 AM

October 2015

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 AM
ADULT: 9:50 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 UMW Food Pantry Collection Cuba Crop Walk 1:30 pm @ Cuba- Rushford HS Track	5	6	7	8 UMW Trash & Treasures Sale 6-8 pm	9 UMW Trash & Treasures Sale 9 am -Noon	10 UMW Trash & Treasures Bag Sale 9 am - Noon
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 November Newsletter Deadline - Noon	20	21	22	23	24
25 Rothfus Offering	26	27	28	29	30	31



2015

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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www.cubaumc.org

Interim Pastor Burt Smith:

Phone: (585) 567-2650

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesday 9 am - 3 pm

Wednesday 1 pm - 6 pm

and by appointment

October

BY ROBERT FROST

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.

The crows above the forest call;

Tomorrow they may form and go.

O hushed October morning mild,

Begin the hours of this day slow.

Make the day seem to us less brief.

Hearts not averse to being beguiled,

Beguile us in the way you know.

Release one leaf at break of day;

At noon release another leaf;

One from our trees, one far away.

Retard the sun with gentle mist;

Enchant the land with amethyst.

Slow, slow!

For the grapes' sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with

frost,

Whose clustered fruit must else be

lost—

For the grapes' sake along the wall.