Greece United Methodist Church



THE ENLIGHTENER



July 2014

Pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed.

(James 5:16 in <u>The Message</u> translation)

We have several different prayer groups in our church. One is a phone chain that passes requests from person to person. Another is an e-mail prayer group, where the requests are sent to a number of people who have agreed to pray. There are also groups that include, as part of their activities, prayer for our church, and for the members, friends, and loved ones of our church, as well as anyone in need. These are only some of the "official" prayers; in addition there are several individuals who pray without ceasing, and promote prayer in all aspects of our congregational life. I don't know if it is true or not, but it seems as though they have been more active than usual lately. I know my prayer list is long.

There is a story about prayer that I want to share with you. Usually, I write my own words in the newsletter, but when somebody else has told this good a story, I like to share it. It is told by William R. White in his book, <u>Stories for the Journey</u> (1988). It refers to Mark 2:1-12 in the Bible; you might want to read that first.

"What is your favorite Bible story, Papa?" the little girl asked her father as he tucked her under the sheets.

"Let me see," he said as he sat on the edge of the bed. "There are so many that I love. The story of the four men who carried their paralyzed friend to Jesus on a pallet, lowering him through the roof, is one of my favorites because it reminds me of how your uncle Hans was healed."

"I don't know that story," the little girl said hopefully. "Please tell it to me, Papa."

"Many years ago," the father began, "Hans and his wife, Enid, escaped the war in Europe so that he could continue his life of teaching in the seminary. At first things were difficult because his English was not good, but soon, he became one of our seminary's most beloved teachers. The students loved him because he was warm and gentle and when he spoke the scriptures came alive.

"Hans and Enid were very much in love. Nearly every day they took long walks together, holding hands. It warmed the hearts of students and faculty alike to see them sitting close to each other in church.

"Then one day Enid died. Hans was struck with sorrow. For weeks he would not eat or take walks. The seminary president, along with three friends, visited him regularly, but he felt lonely and depressed. He was experiencing the dark night of the soul.

"On one of their visits, Hans said to his friends, 'I am no longer able to pray to God. In fact, I am not certain I believe in God.'

"After a moment of silence, the seminary president said, 'Then we will believe for you. We will make your confession for you.'

"The other friends looked bewildered by their president's words, but not knowing what else to say, they agreed.

"In the days ahead the four men met daily for prayer. They made confession on behalf of Uncle Hans. They asked God to restore the gift of faith to their dear friend and they continued to visit him in his home.

"Then, after many months, the four men all gathered in Hans's living room. He smiled before he spoke. 'It is no longer necessary for you to pray for me. Today, I would like you to pray with me.'

"The dark night of the soul had passed."

There was a long silence before the little girl spoke. "Uncle Hans was just like the little boy in the Bible story, wasn't he, Papa? Only instead of a pallet to carry him to Jesus, his friends used prayer."

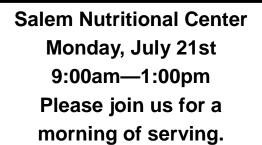
The father nodded and kissed his daughter.

Carry those you love to Jesus in prayer!
In Christ's love,
Pastor Matt Stengel



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Donations Needed:

40 cans of Tuna 5 Jars of Mayo Pies/Brownies Cans of fruit

Worship Schedule for July: Worship Service - 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.

What follows are the Lectionary Readings for each Sunday. Each week, the theme of the service will usually emerge from one of the prescribed readings (often the Gospel). We invite you to read through the lessons prior to Sunday morning. It can be a healthy discipline and enhance the experience of worship.

7/6:	Genesis 24:34-38,42-49,58-67 Romans 7:15-25a	Psalm 45:10-17 Matthew 11:16-19,25-30
7/13:	Genesis 25:19-34 Romans 8:1-11	Psalm 119-105-112 Matthew 13:1-9,18-23
7/20:	Genesis 28-10-19a Romans 8:12-25	Psalm 139:1-12 Matthew 13:24-30,36-43
7/27:	Genesis 29:15-28 Romans 8:26-39	Psalm 105:1-11 Matthew 13:1-33,44-52

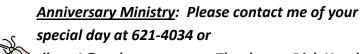
A PRAYER CHAIN REMINDER: We have an active prayer chain, both through e-mails and phone. You're invited to be part of

that; just call Bill and Gail Mason at 453-9038. Also, if you have a prayer concern of any kind that you want

to share, contact Bill and Gail at the number above or by e-mail at wmason@rochester.rr.com. We only send out prayer concerns when we receive direct requests.

<u>Altar Flowers</u>: If you like a formal arrangement placed in honor/memory of a loved one, call Betty LaMonica. Arrangements are \$25.





dham1@rochester.rr.com Thank you, Dick Hamblin

Birthday Ministry: We would love to recognize your special day. Please e-mail Mandy in the office to let us know if your birthday is not on our calendar. areeceumc@frontiernet.net





Deadline for all newsletter articles is the <u>15th of each</u> month by 5:00pm. Please e-mail to Deb Babbage at dbabbage@rochester.rr.com. Thank you.

Thoughts from Deacon Dee:

At the SoHo Wednesday group we have been reading the Gospel of John using Immersion Bible Studies to keep us on track. We read about the Holy Spirit creating and sustaining the Church. It reminded me of where we are at this time.

- The author said, "The church of Jesus Christ is not like a grocery store, although many churchgoers seem to treat it that way. In grocery store you presume that someone else has prepared everything so that you merely have to go there, pick what you want, pay for it, and leave. Your interest is not in helping all the other people in the store find what they need. You are concerned only with your own grocery list. You may or may not see people you know and speak to them, but it is not why you go to the grocery store. You go for yourself and for those for whom you prepare food. If the store should close, it may be inconvenient; but you'll soon find another place to shop."
- The author continues, "For some of people, the church is something that has been put together by someone else. They have nothing to do making sure everything needed is available. They come to church to get something for themselves; and might say "I didn't get anything out of that service." Many times churchgoers only say hi to people they know; the strangers or visitors are not their concern. Having paid for what they came for, they leave. Should the church fail and close, or fail to provide the goods they are used to, they will simply go to another." For some the church is nothing more than a philosophical club or historical society, a place where those who believe the same religious doctrine gather to hear it once more and then leave." Time to evaluate yourself and your being on the journey seeking Jesus/God.

She says it's time to turn in the shopping cart and put away the list and see the church more as Jesus envisioned it and just live it in and out of our doors!

- The Nurture Ministries Position has been at Greece UMC a long time.
- The Position is a paid position to build and oversee opportunities for ministry with others and to equip everyone to live as Disciples of Jesus Christ.
- There is a copy of the Deacon/Nurturing Ministries job description outside my door on the bulletin board. Most of it says I am to create/resource/ recruit/ support/ promote and not be the doer.
- I encourage you to consider ways you can be helpful to the ministries we are about and rethink
 how we do Nurturing Ministries with me. It brings me great joy and it would to you as we work
 together on ministry opportunities.
- I hope you can come July 8 or August 5^{th} as we vision how we are in ministry in the name of Jesus and making disciples in and out of our doors beginning in the Fall.
- (See page 5 of this newsletter for details)



Greece UMC Summer Worship Service

Begins on July 6 at 9:30 a·m·

And continues through August 31st.



Summer Vespers

July & August

Wednesday Evenings

6:00 - 6:30 - Fellowship (Bring your own dinner)

6:30 - 7:00 - Vespers in the Memorial Garden

Starts July 9th

Contact Dee is you are interested in leading a summer vesper session.

Drama Ministry Team

We are forming a drama ministry

team as another way of sharing the word during worship services.

If you are interested, please contact Deacon Dee at deacondee@frontiernet.net.

Summer Women's Retreat Camp Ashbury

Sunday - Tuesday, August 10-12

Theme: God is the potter and we are the clay.

Join us for this opportunity to rest, reflect, and play with a potter's wheel as we recreate a part of understanding of who we are and can be.

More info outside Deacon Dee's office.

Summer Book Study—The Christ-Centered Woman
A Bible Study Based on Ephesians 3
Wednesdays - July 9th—August 13th, from 10:00—11:30am
Memorial Garden - Facilitated by Deacon Dee
Books are available for \$15.00



Sometimes the commitments and pace of daily life can make us feel as if we're on a whirling merry-go-round and dangerously close to losing our sense of balance—or being flung off altogether. We need to discover, through daily devotion, a calm center from which to handle the distracting forces of life that seek to move us away from what is truly important.

Nurturing Ministries Vision Meetings

What is Nurturing Ministries:

Education: Sunday School, Adult Small Groups

Hospitality: Coffee Hour, Memorial Ministry, Heart to Heart, and

Fellowship Events (Dinners, breakfasts, game nights, etc.)

Nursery/Youth/VBS/Summer Missions/Soup Kitchen/Library



If you have led, participated, or have an interest in any of these programs, please join us this summer for planning the 2014-2015 year. Your ideas are very important to us.

Fall Vision Meetings

Tuesday, July 8th - 6:30pm-8:00pm

(Sunday School, Small Group Studies, VBS, Youth, Nursery)

Tuesday, August 5th - 6:30pm-8:00pm

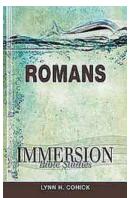
(Missions, Fellowship Events, Coffee Hour, Memorial Ministries)

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and live the Gospel being God's love to our neighbors.

Pastor Matt's Summer Bible Study Immersion Study Guide: Romans

Thursdays, Starting July 3rd.
12:00pm—Church—Kerrison Room (You may bring your lunch.)
Or

7:00pm—The Villages (Behind Unity-Parkridge Hospital)



Pastor Matt will once again offer the Thursday Bible Study. We will be studying Paul's letter to the Romans, using the "Immersion" study guide, as we did for Acts and Hebrews.

The cost of the book is \$10.00. Books will be available at the church or through Pastor Matt.

Anyone is welcome to attend either session, and you may switch between them.

Dinner and Devotion with Dee and Deb

We will be taking July and August off, so folks can attend Wednesday night Summer Vespers. We will resume September 10th.



Page Turners Monthly Book Club:

July Selection:

The Bookman's Tale

by Charlie Lovette



Hay-on-Wye, 1995. Peter Byerly isn't sure what drew him into this particular bookshop. Nine months earlier, the death of his beloved wife, Amanda, had left him shattered. The young antiquarian bookseller relocated from North Carolina to the English countryside, hoping to rediscover the joy he once took in collecting and restoring rare books. But upon opening an eighteenth-century study of Shakespeare forgeries, Peter is shocked when a portrait of Amanda tumbles out of its pages. Of course, it isn't really her. The watercolor is clearly Victorian. Yet the resemblance is uncanny, and Peter becomes obsessed with learning the picture's origins.

As he follows the trail back first to the Victorian era and then to Shakespeare's time, Peter communes with Amanda's spirit, learns the truth about his own past, and discovers a book that might definitively prove Shakespeare was, indeed, the author of all his plays

Everyone is invited to discuss this book on Thursday, July 24th at 10:00am in the Kerrison Room.

There will be no meeting in August.

Tuesday Book Group:

To Heaven and Back

By Mary C. Neal
Mary Neal shares her extraordinary account
of her death, heaven, angels, and life again.
All are welcome to this group which meets

on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am in Room 9.

Questions, contact:

Linda Hoffman, facilitator Imhoffman@rochester.rr.com

Bagel and Book Study: Lent Study:



We will be taking a break for July and August. We will resume Wednesday, September 10th. Please see page 3 for Summer book study option.

Enjoy your Summer!

Book Sale

Thank you!!!

Thank you to all who helped and supported the Book

and Bake Sale. We raised over \$700 for our church ministries.

Special thanks to Paige & Sarah Babbage, Dee Finch, Jane Vannicola, Jane Banta, Sue Sepkowski, Kim Whittemore, Steve & Jean Nash, Denise Wake, Neva Benson, Linda Hoffman, Carol Guild, Sandy Konarski, Ellegra Nier, Chris Collins, Betty Lamonica, Tom Hinterman, Faye Fredericks, Shirley Hardy, Jean Lee, & Joan Fowler.

If I missed anyone, please know that I appreciated your help and donations. I had many angels that stepped up behind the scenes.

Deb Babbage

Message from the Library Committee:

New books are on our shelves! A lot of good reads for the summer!!

"Dinner With A Perfect stranger" by David Gregory

"Faithlift: Put Wings to your Faith Walk and Soar" by Bobbie Mason

"Dream Giver" by Bruce Wilkonson

"Sunset Limited" by Cormac McCarthy

"Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Schaffer

"Communion With God" by Neale Donald Walsch

"Conversations With God" bk 1,by Neale Donald Walsch

"Conversations with God" bk 2, Neale Donald Walsch



The library is there for all to enjoy, learn and grow. Help yourself!

The Library Committee

Alzheimer's and Dementia Seminars

Chris Albee, Executive Director, Atria Senior Living has offered info/support/training to anyone who is dealing with aging issues or parents or people who are wanting to know more about Alzheimer's and Dementia.

The Seminar Series/Support Group will be on

Monday nights 1st of the month in Room 9, 6:30-7:30pm

July 7 Personal Care: Maximizing ADL Independence

August 4 Enhancing Nutrition and Hydration

September 8 Environmental and Safety Considerations for Persons with Alzheimer's

October 6 Disease/Dementia

November 3 Sexuality

December 1 Working As a Team...Including Your Families

Greece United Methodist Women:

Executive Meeting – August 25th, 2014 @7:00pm in Room 9 Chris Collins, president RE: Plan activities for months ahead.



Ruby Tuesday Coupons
are now on the Website
and in King's Commons.

Due to mailing restrictions, we can not include

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Widows and Widowers Group:

We will not be meeting in August.

Meetings will resume in September.



STEWARDSHIP





As we move closer to that time of the year when we ask for your financial support for the upcoming year, my thoughts start to turn to a theme. Recently, reading from a book by the author of "Not Your Parent's Offering Plate", he mentioned the phrase General Motors used to sell one of their brands "Not Your Father's Oldsmobile!" to encourage younger buyers. About 12 years later, that brand was phased out. So much for the long term effect of a theme.

I think it's safe to say that today's church isn't "Our Parent's Church". Much has changed over the years even though our basic beliefs remain the same. Church used to be the first on the fairly short list of places to which to donate. Today, we receive requests from every direction for donations to support different charities and other organizations. If you're like our house, hardly a day goes by that we don't receive a phone call or a mail request for a donation. All this is a way of saying that the demand on our generosity has grown and that the church has to find ways to compete for your money and time.

The author, J.Clif Christopher has a new book "Whose Offering Plate Is It?" and it raises a lot of issues, primarily for Pastors to contemplate as they ask members for their financial support. Before we reach this fall's timeframe for stewardship, I hope to have digested some of his thoughts and can find a way to work with our Pastor and Deacon in designing an approach that will appeal to members. In the meantime, we continue to encourage your financial support along with your regular attendance and program involvement and thank you for all you have done.

Bill Mason

Finance Report:

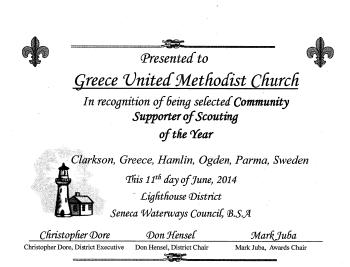
End of May figures are in.

Usable funds total \$138,039.68. We have spent \$136,577.25 and we have yet to pay \$8,142.56. Total of \$144,719.81. We are behind \$6,680.13 at the end of May.

All of the estimated income area's are holding their own but not enough to keep up with the budget.

Summer months are here and we need to keep up with pledges over the summer.

Bill Brado



Greece United Methodist Church
received the

Community Supporter of Scouting of
the Year Award
on Wednesday, June 11th at the
Seneca Waterways Council—Lighthouse
District end of the year dinner.

Pastor Matt and Deacon Dee were on
hand to receive this award on behalf
of the church.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Our Sticky Lips BBQ raised approx. \$2,000 toward our upcoming home sponsorship. Another church, John Knox Presbyterian has joined with us. If Habitat works out all the details for groundbreaking this fall and with plans for indoor modular building, we'll be on our way to sponsoring our sixth house in the city of Rochester. This is a particularly important commitment for Habitat as they have families that have completed their sweat equity but don't have an available sponsor as yet.

Following our next meeting in July, we will have updates on all these areas and will begin the process of asking for donations against the cost of a square foot or to underwrite the cost of specific building materials, i.e. \$10 would cover the cost of a box of nails. In addition, we'll be looking for volunteers to help with all aspects of the build.

Thanks for your support Bill Mason

Message from Outreach:

In a small, rural county, a court case involved a defendant who was charged with trying to assault the police officer who had arrested him following an accident. To convict the defendant of the assault charge, the district attorney had to prove that the defendant knew that the person he was assaulting was a police officer . . . and the easiest way to do that was to show that the officer was wearing a police uniform.

Questioning the officer on the witness stand, the district attorney asked, "And how were you attired when you pulled the defendant over?"

The witness stared blankly at him; it was clear that he did understand the meaning of "attired," so he asked the district attorney to repeat the question.

In a slightly raised voice, the district attorney intoned, "And how were you attired when you pulled the defendant over?"

Still looking puzzled, the defendant asked, "Say that again please."

By now, the district attorney was practically yelling, "How were you attired when you pulled the defendant over?"

In that moment, you could suddenly see the light bulb click on in the defendant's head, and he loudly proclaimed, "I was traveling on standard issue radial TIRES!"

Thank you to everyone who donated undies, allowing the elementary students to be properly and happily attired . . . in the event of an accident!

(story paraphrased from "How Were You Attired," Sermons.com)

Karen Pearson

Thoughts from Co-Lay Leader Lisa Kostyshak

From Annual Conference 2014 – Bishop Webb's Opening Worship

The following is a small excerpt from Bishop Webb's opening worship from Annual Conference a couple weeks ago. Very powerful. Please read this whole thing.

The story is told about a young preacher who was pastoring a very traditional and established church. The church was beginning to experience phenomenal growth. It got to the place where the sanctuary was no longer suitable for the congregation. They were going to have to buy or build a new sanctuary.

The young preacher had a vision, but she had to come to the church meeting and present her vision to the church and hear from the church. So she came to the meeting ready to share her vision of how God was leading the church to expand their facility. She finished her presentation and waited for a response from the church members that had gathered.

Fairly quickly, a gentleman rose to his feet and said, "Preacher I thank God for you, but we can't move from this building." The young preacher stood there not knowing what to say. The church member continued, "Pastor, we can't move from this building because that pulpit you preach from – my grandfather used to preach from that pulpit. This chair I just arose from is where my daddy used to pray. And this post that I'm standing next to, I accepted Christ standing right next to this post. Now preacher, I don't mean any harm, but we can't move from this building."

The young preacher stood there not knowing what to say. While she was gathering her thoughts, an older sainted sister in the rear of the room stood to her feet. She said, "Pastor, I would like to make a motion that we give that brother the post and move on with the plan."

I wonder if there are some posts we need to give away, SO THAT we can move on with the plan!

Imagine what God might do in us and through us if every United Methodist faith community in Upper New York in the next year made a commitment to evangelism – boldly claiming and sharing with others our relationship with Jesus.



Congregational Updates

Address Updates:

DEE RUDMAN-GATH



Not available for web edition Call office for update

Words of Gratitude:

I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone in my church family who sent cards, offered words of comfort and support, and prayed for my family and for me during my mother's recent illness and passing. My sisters and my dad all have been touched by your caring. Blessings to all of you.

Sandy Konarski

Sunday Volunteers: Thank you to all our Volunteers!

Nursery

7/6:Sally Lepi/Debbie Symonds 7/13: Karen Ingle/Kali Iachetta 7/20: Kim & Chelsea Whittemore 7/27: Phyl-Ann Helmes/Kali Iachetta



<u>Projectionists</u>

9:30am

7/6:Earl Ridley/Donna Lashbrook (p)

7/13: Sarah Babbage/Donna Lashbrook (p) 7/20: Melissa Dunn/Cheryl Sheldon (p)

7/27: Kara Down/ Cheryl Sheldon (p)



<u>Liturgists</u>

No Summer Liturgists

Ushers

9:30am

July: Tom Hinterman's Team



July Birthdays



Not available for web edition Call office for information.

June Anniversaries:

Not available for web edition Call office for information.



Congregational Want-Ads



The Communications team has approved an area for members of the congregation to advertise their services, products, and business.

All advertisements need to be 30 words or less.





July 2014—As of 6/15th

Please see Website for updates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29			2 AA 12:00 PM Vespers 6:30 PM	3 Atria Sr Bible Study 10:30 AM Women's AA 11:00 AM	4 Independence Day AA 12:00 PM AA 7:30 PM	5
6 Sunday School Summer Worship Service 9:30 AM Worship Service at 9:30 am 9:30 AM	Silver Squares Square Dancers 12:30 PM Guitar Lessons 2:30 PM Alzheimer's & Dementia Series 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	8 Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Tuesday Book Study 10:00 AM	9 Book Study 9:30 AM AA 12:00 PM Vespers 6:30 PM	Atria Sr Bible Study 10:30 AM Women's AA 11:00 AM	11 AA 12:00 PM Creative Hands 1:15 PM AA 7:30 PM	12 Emmaus Gathering 8:30 AM
13 Sunday School Summer Worship Service 9:30 AM Worship Service at 9:30 am 9:30 AM Deborah Circle 2:00 PM	ter 9:00 AM AA 12:00 PM Silver Squares Square Dancers 12:30 PM Guitar Music Lessons	Today Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Tuesday Book Study	16 Book Study 9:30 AM AA 12:00 PM Vespers 6:30 PM	17 Atria Sr Bible Study 10:30 AM Women's AA 11:00 AM	AA 12:00 PM Creative Hands 1:15 PM AA 7:30 PM	19

July 2014—As Of 6/15th

Please See Website for Updates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sunday School	Church Fundraiser		Book Study 9:30 AM	Page Turners Book Group	AA 12:00 PM	Lepi Family Reunion 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Summer Worship Service 9:30 AM	11:00 AM to 11:00 PM	Tuesday Book Study 10:00 AM	AA 12:00 PM	10:00 AM Atria Sr Bible Study 10:30 AM	Creative Hands 1:15 PM	
Worship Service at 9:30 am	Silver Squares Square		Vespers 6:30 PM	Women's AA 11:00 AM	AA 7:30 PM	
9:30 AM	40.00 DN4	Weight Watchers 5:30 PM				
27	28		30	31		
Summer Mission Trip	Summer Mission		Summer Mission	Summer Mission Trip		
Sunday School	•		Book Study 9:30 AM	Atria Sr Bible Study 10:30 AM		
Summer Worship Service 9:30 AM	10:30 AM AA 12:00 PM	Tuesday Book Study 10:00 AM	AA 12:00 PM	Women's AA 11:00 AM		
Worship Service at 9:30 am 9:30 AM	Silver Squares Square Dancers 12:30 PM	Guitar Music Lessons 2:30 PM Weight Watchers 5:30 PM	Vespers 6:30 PM			
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