

Bristoletter

**Newsletter of the United Church of Bristol
A member congregation of the United Church of Christ**

Aug/Sept 2014

The Church on the Hill (Jan Pestle Schrader, July 2014)

Nestled snugly in the town of Bristol,
It's the church up on the hill.
Her halls are warm and inviting
Amidst the cold winter chill.
When springtime bursts with colors,
Yellow, purple and red.
We gather for prayer and fellowship,
There's no place we'd rather be instead.
Summer brings sunshine and plenty,
We share our many blessings with all.
Outreach, service and caring;
For all God's creatures, great and small.
As autumn slowly approaches,
Much hustle and bustle we see.
Our hearts and minds are renewed,
And joyously happy are we.
We love the church up on the hill,
A second home and family to share.
Whatever is needed in times of sadness or joy,
The church on the hill is always there.

**United Church of Bristol
7177 County Road Two
Bloomfield, NY 14469**

TO:

“God is still speaking”

Jerry LaRue Fletcher
Treasurer

Catherine Joseph
Moderator

Catherine Joseph
Chair of Deacons

**Rev. Thomas (Tim) Hamlin, Pastor E-mail: redcedar58@gmail.com Phone: 585-727-2938
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<churchofbristol@gmail.com> Church phone 585-657-7030 Web: UnitedChurchofBristolUCC.org
to receive Bristoletter by e-mail, contact jschrader@cnbank.com**

Liturgist, Greeters, & Fellowship Hour –June & July 2014

DATE	LITURGIST	GREET & FAREWELL	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
August 3	Art Babcock	Sally Ess & Pat Pestle	Ellie Babcock & Joan Hall
August 10	Cathy Joseph	Richard & Norma Lyons	Elaine Burd & Edie Thomas
August 17	Rena Faulkner	Bob & Dianne Marcellus	** Sally Ess & Pat Pestle **
August 24	Bob Drayn	Paula Dorn & Helen Fox	Jon & Emily Angell
August 31	MaryAnn Strasser	John & Rena Faulkner	Bob & Dianne Marcellus
September 7	Cc Bodnar	Sheila Hudson & Ann Ward	VanStralen Family
September 14	Lance Bassage	Bob & Stephanie Drayn	Priscilla Cratsley & Deb Footer
September 21	John Faulkner	Cc Bodnar & Cathy Joseph	** Faye Brocklebank & Mary Lynne Parmelee **
September 28	Dianne Marcellus	VanStralen Family	Lance & Diane Bassage
October 5	Karla Babcock	Faye Brocklebank & Mary Lynne Parmelee	Paula Dorn & Joan Hall

- **“Greeters”** Please try to remember to have one or both of you be a “fare-weller” at the end of the service by the door to wish those people well who may not be staying with us for the fellowship hour. Thank you for adding this new task and making everyone feel welcome all the time at UCB! Your other duties still are to be at the door by 9:20, remember to wear your name tag, have guests sign our guestbook, hand out the Sunday bulletins and any other hand-outs, count all the attendees and enter the total in the book, take up the collection when called by the Pastor. Headsets are on the table or in the drawer if needed by anyone.
- Those who are assigned to “fellowship hour”, you will need to provide juice for children and non-coffee drinkers. Pick up the cake, if it is ****cake Sunday****, Pat and Sally order it.
- >>These are “pot-luck Sundays”. A huge spread for “fellowship hour isn’t really necessary on these Sundays. Please, all are welcome to join in for a pot-luck luncheon after a light fellowship snack.
- **These represent “birthday cake Sundays”**. If you should be on fellowship hour for this Sunday and are new to this, please see Pat or Sally.
- +Please find your own substitute if you are unable to fulfill your appointed task. THANKS!
- +If you would like to be added to this list, please let Pat or Sally know.

Those Whom We Hold in Prayer

Shane, Kali, La Rue, Peter and family, Roger and Louise, Ernie, Wendy, Grandpa, the family of Jerry Drake, Stephen, JoAnn, Angela, Valerie, Caroline, Ryan, Jane, Margaret, Bill, Dick, and Jack. Prayers for UNICEF in their quest for world eradication of polio, and for the WHO in their efforts to contain the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Prayers of compassion for those seeking wellness of body, mind and/or spirit; the victims of natural disasters; all who grieve; the poor and dis-empowered; all who are persecuted for their religious beliefs; all those who are traveling; and for planet Earth.

Altar Flower Committee Report

CALLING ALL UCB GARDENERS!!

Continued invite to share your bounty during the months of August and September! If your garden is having an especially good week and you would like to bring a bouquet/arrangement for the Altar or the Narthex on any Sunday please call Diane Bassage – 657-6609 – by the Friday morning before and we will plan accordingly!!

Christian Education

The fall **Adult Study Program** will begin September 9 from 11 am to 12:30 pm, and run every other Tuesday until November 18. Depending upon the programs, we will continue in the spring if more days are needed. Bring lunch if you wish, Coffee and tea will be available. The program, "Eight Great Stories Every Christian Should Know" contains a DVD, Journal and discussion ideas. All materials are free. Please sign up early so we will know how many journals to order. Facilitator: Cc Bodnar. Questions: call 396-0344 or email c.k.bodnar@gmail.com.

Sunday School kickoff September 28th - 9am.

Wildlife Defenders will once again dazzle us with amazing animals and their important message!!!

Outreach/Missions

“Once again we say thank you, thank you for your support of the children of Likoting Village. Your generous donation will help tremendously toward the purchase of maize meal during their winter months (“papa” – a mixture of water and the corn meal heated) and clothing. During our last visit in February we located a business that sells baled clothing. We bought 2 bales of coats then that gave the village orphans 160 winter coats and jackets, all for \$350. The Bo Me were thrilled as were the children with their “new” warm winter coats. We will see what they will need in February 2015 and be able to help once again. Thank you so much, everyone, for helping to make this happen. Your Joy Jar is having reaching effects!”

Love from Likoting,
Pic Shade

News from the Wider Church - GVA and New York Conference, UCC

There is transition and change as well as continued tradition within the Genesee Valley Association of our United Church of Christ. Nancy Peebles, pastor at Spencerport Congregational Church, now serves as moderator of GVA, the association of more than 30 area UCC churches.

One of the most visible aspects of GVA is the annual granting of funds to community programs and projects doing God's work in the wider region. Applications for the 2015 budget year are due in the GVA office by August 15; I would be happy to talk with anyone about this Program and Mission Support work, which is funded by contributions from our congregations and doing together what we could not do alone.

Members from several GVA churches are meeting with a group at Salem UCC in downtown Rochester, supporting this congregation with historic roots in the German Evangelical tradition of the UCC as it works to envision its future and to find ways of making its magnificent building more available to the community as a way of better serving "Christ in the City."

A most visible outreach of our GVA is the Salem Nutrition Center, hosted at Salem UCC, where as many as 200 individuals are served hot nutrition meals two days a week. Kay Merrifield, who has served as the Center coordinator since our own Sue Jones Forsyth retired a few years ago, is now ready to step down, and we are seeking a dedicated and hard-working volunteer to lead this essential and highly visible face of the UCC. Transition is also occurring in Wellspring, the center and lending library for religious education resources, now housed at Henrietta UCC. Those interested in supporting faith development for any and all ages, please contact me with ideas about how to organize this ministry for the future.

Fall Assembly of GVA will be held on Sunday October 26, hosted at Salem UCC, and every GVA congregation is invited to send a delegation to worship, share a meal provided by the Nutrition Center, and lend energy to Salem's visioning process for the future. Watch for details.

I will report more at a later date on the annual gathering of our New York State Conference, held recently in Niagara Falls, and the ministry in which our Conference, some 535 congregations strong, is engaged. I encourage our congregation to appoint - and fund - a member's participation in next year's gathering, to be held at beautiful Silver Bay on Lake George on the first weekend in June.

What follows is the transcript of one way in which I participated in this year's Gathering of our New York Conference, and I welcome opportunity to further

engage on issues which challenge us, each and all, to be faithful. Lyle Jenks, delegate to GVA

Testimony prepared in support of a resolution calling upon UCC congregations and members to consider divesting from companies which profit by participating in the occupation of Palestine. The resolution was passed overwhelmingly.

"I stand in solidarity with three visionary, strong, faithful, and doggedly determined women whose witness to justice are lights in the darkness of oppression I stand with Haifa Rashed, a young woman who, after years of working at the United Nations on issues of justice for Palestinians, plans to travel to Palestine as an "ecumenical accompanier" with a World Council of Churches delegation, serving as a human shield for Palestinians who daily face the dangers of military occupation. I stand in gratitude for Haifa's witness.

I stand with Kathy Bergen, a former staff member with the American Friends Service Committee now assisting Palestinians at the Friends International Center in Ramallah. Kathy and her neighbors provide a safe, neutral environment in which Israeli and Palestinian children together use art and music to express their experiences of living in a world that is rife with economic as well as military violence. I stand in awe of her commitment to healing and justice.

I stand with Jean Zaru, clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting, whose family roots run as deep in the Palestinian soil as the ancient olive groves that, until bulldozed by American-made Caterpillars, had been the basis of Ramallah's economy. Feeling both sorrow and outrage that my friend Jean was prevented from leaving Ramallah to deliver the Kairos lectures at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School this spring, I am yet grateful for her having helped me understand the institutional and systemic violence of the occupation, and I am humbled that she has the faith to continue imploring others to join in non-violent strategic resistance to the political and economic injustices faced by the Palestinian people.

I stand with Haifa, Kathy, and Jean, and pray with them that we find ways of 'being bold' together."

Pastor's Letter

Conventional wisdom holds that "things slowdown in the summer." It might take a while...but the pace of life generally slackens. That is, if we let it. That's the key: pulling the foot off the accelerator and let ourselves coast. By the time summer is in full swing, it doesn't do well to force much of anything.

Case in point: my zucchini steadfastly refuse to be rushed. Standing next to my zucchini plants tapping my foot accomplishes nothing...except getting my shoe dirty. Similarly, the clock on my kitchen wall is utterly indifferent to my complaints about its moving too slow (or too fast!) The time and the seasons are about as amenable to my prodding as a donkey on Benadryl. Things have their pace. I do well to accept them. Summer bears an invitation to at least think about slowing down. Maybe it's purely a function of warm weather. One of my most vivid memories of Hawaii, other than the palms, the macadamias, and 2500 miles of shark-infested water...is how relaxed people seemed – all the while sitting on top of a powder keg of lava! Something accounts for their thorough-going serenity. Maybe deep down, at the cellular level, all Hawaiians have a sense that, whatever other untoward events may befall them, winter is NOT around the corner...and never will be. Perhaps that awareness alone makes for a spiritual calm that we northerners seldom enjoy. Contemplative living – steeping oneself in the presence of God in all things – is all about slowing...listening...and savoring. The contemplative way is not an easy one. For example, I've wondered how a dyed-in-the-wool contemplative handles a job interview. When job searching seems so frenetically filled with being a "proactive self-starter able to get the job done 24/7"...are contemplatives invariably lost in the dust of the thundering herd? The good news is that summer is a fertile recruiting season for contemplatives. In a season so rife with "L words" like "lolling", "languid" and "leisure", we can almost hear our inner embryonic contemplative self-calling out: "feed me, nurture me, let me flourish...but for goodness' sake do it slowly!" Summer offers what might be considered "training wheels", a chance to ease into contemplation, so that by the time mid-December blows in we've gained the spiritual strength to set aside the snow shovel long enough to relish the Christ-child in our midst. But that's a long way off. For now, I want to linger listlessly beside a lilting stream and soak it all in. This season, I wish you many long, luscious moments of living into Love. In faith...and in gratitude...

Tim

“Directory Updates”

We are currently updating our church directory information for 2014. Please use the form below to submit any new or additional information, or any other changes you wish to have added to our current directory. Directory forms are also available in church, and from any of our Deacons. Please return all forms no later than September 30th.

If you would like your photo taken for the directory please see Catherine Joseph.

Please bring this form with you or mail it by 09/30/14 to:
Directory Updates, United Church of Bristol, 7177 County Road 2, Bloomfield, NY 14469

Family or Household Name(s) _____

Name(s) specify/include last name if different from above:

- 1) _____ Birthday (month/day) _____
- 2) _____ Birthday (month/day) _____
- 3) _____ Birthday (month/day) _____
- 4) _____ Birthday (month/day) _____
- 5) _____ Birthday (month/day) _____
- 6) _____ Birthday (month/day) _____

Mailing Address _____

Town/State/Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail address _____