



The Trumpet

Genesee Valley Association
New York Conference
United Church of Christ

November 1, 2015

Shanty Town Youth Event Registration Ends Today!

Do you know young people who would like to be involved in outreach work? Today is the last day to register for the 14th Annual Shanty Town event at Henrietta UCC, 1400 Lehigh Station Road in Henrietta. This is an opportunity for middle and high school youth in grades 6 to 12 to walk in the shoes of those in need. The event will begin at 6 pm on Friday, Nov. 6, and conclude at 11:30 am on Saturday, November 7.

Participating in Shanty Town offers youth the opportunity to better understand homelessness and what life can be like for the elderly. They will sleep in a box outside overnight and experience how it feels to be without the benefit of a home. In addition, they will help raise funds for the house HUCC is building with Habitat for Humanity in Rochester's JOSANA neighborhood, and they will visit with senior citizens at a Woodcrest Commons, a local assisted living community.

Supper and breakfast will be provided and participants are requested to pay \$6 to cover that cost. To register or obtain additional information, call or email Rev. Martha Stone at 473-5744 or PastorMartha@henriettaucc.org. Participants are asked to find sponsors, line up chaperones, collect donations, and find a refrigerator box and supplies to build a shanty.



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The Resource Center News

Have you checked out the new online catalog at the Resource Center yet? The GVA Wellspring Resource Center has moved to the Presbytery office at Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, 1190 Winton Rd. So., and is open Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm. New purchases are being made each month and worship

resources from UCC General Synod #30 in Cleveland are being added to the UCC shelf. Read about other new materials below.

The shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, reignited a long-smoldering movement for justice, with many St. Louis-area clergy stepping up to support the emerging young leaders of today's Civil Rights Movement. Seminary professor Leah Gunning Francis was among the activists, and her interviews with more than two dozen faith leaders and with the new movement's organizers take readers behind the scenes of the continuing protests. Ferguson & Faith is just one of the new purchases available to you at the Resource Center.

In Chosen? Reading the Bible amid the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Walter Brueggemann explores the situation in modern-day Israel that raises questions for many Christians who are easily confused when reading biblical accounts of God's saving actions with the Israelites. Are modern Israeli citizens the descendants of the Israelites in the Bible whom God called chosen? Was the promise of land to Moses permanent and irrevocable? What about others living in the promised land? How should we read the Bible in light of the modern situation? Who are the Zionists, and what do they say?

Other new purchases include: The Holy Spirit by Hauerwas; Overcoming Stress by Cantopher, Overcoming Depression by Cantopher, The Year Without a Purchase by Dannemiller, Thoughtful Christianity by Daniel, Walking Backwards to Christmas by Cottrell, Wonder of Wonders by Bonheoffer, Jesus, Pope Francis, and a Protestant Walk by Rock, God and the Gay Christian by Vines, The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriages by Achtemeir, A Reasonable Belief by Greenway, The Season of the Nativity by MacBeth, and Why This Jubilee? Advent Reflections by Howell. To see the rest of the newest Fresh Picks, go to <http://pbygenval.org/category/resource-center/whats-new/> .

All of the resources are available through the online catalog which is easy to use! Whether looking for a specific title, a specific author or a particular category using the Advanced Search option, check out what is available for borrowing at: <http://www.rqmweb.com/pbygenval>. Once you find a resource that suits your need, follow the simple instructions to reserve the item. An email will be sent to the Resource Center and the requested item(s) will be set aside for pick up at your earliest convenience or mailing if that is your preference. Contact Susan Orr at 242-0099 for more information or visit the website at <http://pbygenval.org/about-us/missions-ministries/resource-center/> or <http://pbygenval.org/category/resource-center/>

SAVE THE DATE! The annual meeting of the New York Conference of UCC in conjunction with the regional gathering of the Disciples of Christ will be held here in Rochester next year! Mark the dates on your calendar: June 10-12 and watch for more details.

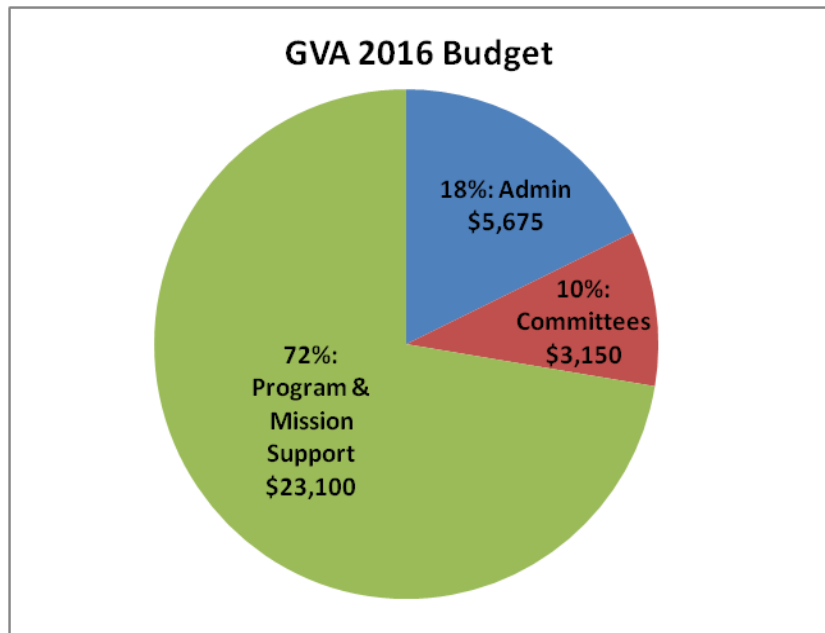
CHURCH NEWS

Please share the work and play of your church with your GVA brothers and sisters. Send your church news to gvaucc@gmail.com Thanks!

- ❖ The Spiritual Life Committee and the Women's Fellowship at St. Peter's UCC in Perkinsville will hold their First Annual Retreat for fellowship and faith development Nov. 14. The theme will be "The Seasons of Friendship."
- ❖ Christian Temple-First Congregational Church in Wellsville has said a grateful goodbye to interim minister Rev. Michael Friday and the General Board has authorized a committee to look for an interim pastor until a settled pastor is called.
- ❖ Community Christian Church in Chili will hold an overnight Fall Sabbath Retreat at the Abbey of the Genesee on Nov. 14 and 15. The church will also have a Cabin Party at William Mahar Lodge in Churchville Park on November 7.
- ❖ First Congregational Church in Canandaigua will hold an Adult Retreat, Saturday, November 7, 9am – 2pm at the church. The topic will be Joan Chittister's thought-provoking new book, *Between the Dark and the Daylight: Embracing the Contradictions of Life*.
- ❖ Castile United Church of Christ has called Rev. Harrison Putnam to be their settled minister starting November 29.
- ❖ First Congregational, UCC in Fairport will offer a Bible study on "Reclaiming the Power of the Parables" on Monday evenings in November from 7 to 8:30 pm, led by Jim Stewart (no class Nov. 16). Topics will include God is Not "Fair" (Matthew 20:1-16), Poor Man, Rich Man (Luke 16:19-31), and Priest, Levite and Neighbor (Luke 10: 25-37). For more information visit <http://www.fairportucc.org/>.
- ❖ Fairport will also have a Movie Night for All Ages at the church on Nov. 20. The movie "Inside-Out" will be projected on the wall in Upper Fellowship Hall and everyone is invited to come between 7:15 and 7:30, in pajamas and with a pillow. The church will provide popcorn, snacks, and drinks.
- ❖ Webster UCC children and youth are making knotted fleece blankets as part of the Warm Fuzzy Blanket Ministry. The blankets will go to children and youth who experience an illness or personal crisis.
- ❖ Congratulations to Union Congregational in Churchville on their new website. Check it out at www.churchvilleucc.com/.
- ❖ First Congregational Church in Riga has begun the Search and Call process.

Fall Assembly

Members of GVA churches gathered for the Fall Assembly October 25 at Parma Greece UCC. The Rev. Kurt Traugott led the opening worship and an offering was taken to benefit the Hilton Food Shelf. Susan Orr from the Resource Center spoke about the many resources available to GVA churches and Diane Ellis, Communications Coordinator, encouraged churches to send information on what their churches are doing for inclusion in the Trumpet newsletter.



Associate Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams represented the Conference and provided an overview of the Conference and regional ministries. During the business meeting, the group approved a budget for 2016 of \$31,925. GVA continues to allocate a large portion of the Association's income to programs and missions (see pie chart). Lyle Jenks, Corrine Pimm and Martha Koenig Stone provided reports on the recent General Synod.



People News

Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams, Association Conference Minister, joined us for the GVA Fall Assembly and provided us with her contact information. Her email address is mwilliams@uccny.org and her phone number is 845-500-5082.

Rev. Brian Krause has retired after 35 years of pastoring Honeoye United Church of Christ. His ministry was celebrated at a service on Sunday, October 25 at Honeoye UCC, where he first stepped into the pulpit in 1980.

Rev. Dale Stanley has joined the New York Conference and will serve as the Search and Call Associate in the Western and Genesee Valley Associations, working alongside Rev. Ryan Henderson in assisting churches in transition. Rev. Dale Stanley has been an ordained United Church of Christ minister for 22 years, serves on the Department of Community Ministries and is one of the trainers for Boundary Awareness for the Western Area.

Rev. Shirley Pudney-Eilers has accepted a call to Faith United Church of Christ in Williamsville. Her last Sunday at Morganville was Oct. 25.

Rev. Beth Gobeli has begun the process of seeking Ecclesiastical Endorsement for a position in U.S. Government Chaplaincy.

Excerpts from an Honest, Tired, Struggling Apostle's Creed By John Pavlovitz

I believe in God—usually. I mean most of the time I'm absolutely sure that God exists, though sometimes dying children and serial killers and Cancer and Tsunamis do make me wonder about His power or goodness. And on a few *really* bad days I've even been terrified that God may not be there at all. But yes, I do believe in God.

I believe in Jesus yet sometimes struggle with *the Christ*. The idea that God hated the flawed children He created so *much* that he had to send His only son (who is also God) to earth and then brutally murder Him to satisfy—*Himself*, seems rather wasteful and petty and mean. Many days I hesitate to go all-in with that part of the story. I also sometimes wonder about the science of the whole Virgin Birth thing and the miracle stories too, if I'm being honest. Yet Jesus *is* the closest thing to bedrock I've ever found; my peace and rest are many times the only thing that keeps me from totally losing my religion. I always find his words and his ways beautiful and life-giving, yet even then I wonder just how this whole salvation thing really works and what I'm missing that others seem to get without trying.

I believe in the Holy Spirit but confess I often can't tell what is God speaking to me, and what is just me talking to myself. *God as Spirit* gets a little nebulous and weird and loosey-goosey for me sometimes too, especially when trying to find something supernatural and sacred in the mundane, ordinary, fluorescent-lit, traffic-jammed, mosquito-occupied days I stumble through.

I believe in the Church, though if I'm honest it seems to do as much harm as good in the world, and I'm not sure what to do with that tragic reality. I've been both gripped by the Church's beauty yet repelled by the horrors it has manufactured. I can (many times in the very same days) find it both fully lovely and entirely gruesome and this unsettles me greatly. I daily *fight for* the Church and *fight with* The Church with equal vigor and often wonder which is the better path.

To read more: <http://johnpavlovitz.com/2015/09/16/an-honest-tired-struggling-apostles-creed/>

Technology News!

Ministers from GVA met at Mountain Rise UCC Nov. 15 to learn more about the use of technology in worship. Greg Osterberg shared a variety of ways in which technology can enhance the work of the church.



Ideas included use of nature pictures, photos of the congregation, visuals of social ministries the church does, projecting song and liturgy lyrics, video service and making DVDs of worship, the use of YouTube, Skype, live streaming, and Drop Box, and creating backgrounds for children's pageants. He also recommended Wikimedia Commons at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page for public domain images.

The GVA website project is moving forward! The domain name (gvauc.org) has been selected and a content review committee established. Thanks to Mike Zebulske from Parma Greece UCC for volunteering to use his skills to make GVA visible on the web!

Calendar of Events

Please be sure to send information on your church's events to gvaucc@gmail.com

November 3

Free Webinar from Parish Resource Center courtesy of NY Conference of UCC- [From Local Congregations to Global Outreach: Parish/Faith Community Nursing Health Ministry](#). 7:00 - 8:00 pm EST. Leader: Sharon Hinton. parishresourcecenter.org/

November 5

- Boundary Awareness Training from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Community Christian Church in Chili. Facilitators will be Penny Cannon and Carl Richter.
- Free Webinar from Parish Resource Center courtesy of NY Conference of UCC- courtesy of NY Conference of UCC- [Basics for Christian Educators](#). 7:00 - 8:00 PM EST. Leader: Elizabeth Christie. parishresourcecenter.org/

November 6

Church Women United sponsored World Community Day beginning at 9:30 am at East Penfield Baptist Church, 2635 Penfield Rd., Fairport. This year's theme "Our Journey Together" focuses on bringing Christian women together from different cultural backgrounds to share stories from their Christian journey. You are asked to bring a bagged lunch, beverages and dessert will be provided. Celebration attendees are also invited to share in a collection of nonperishable food items for The Community Food Cupboard of Rochester.

November 7

Miche Fambro performing at St Peter's Episcopal Church at 4:00 pm. Miche fuses elements of flamenco, jazz, classical as well as pop and soul in a style all his own. He has recently finished a European tour. His web site is: michiefambro.com/.

November 14

- Henrietta UCC's Fall Roast Beef Dinner at the church with seatings at 5 pm and 6:15 pm and take-out available. Prices are \$10/adults and \$5/children 5 to 12 years old. Orders can be phoned in to Andrea at 334-0030, or emailed to adminassis-tant@henriettaucc.org.
- Annual Harvest Dinner & Bazaar at [Union Congregational in Churchville](#), 14 N. Main Street. The bazaar starts at 1 pm with dinner take-outs available at 3:30 pm and dinner in house from 4 to 7 pm. Adults are \$12, children 5-12 are \$6 and children under 5 are free.

November 19

Clergy Colloquy at Union Congregational Church in Churchville beginning at 10 am. Topic is "Keeping connected: Conversation on ministry in retirement" presented by Brian Krause. Tim Meyer, Convener.

November 22

Multigenerational musical performance of "Peace in the Kingdom" at 10 am during Sunday worship and for the community at 2 pm at Union Congregational Church in Churchville, 14 N. Main Street, For more information on the play, check out <http://www.christianpub.com/default.aspx?pg=sd&st=Peace+in+the+Kingdom&p=370>.

Calendar of Events (continued)

November 26

Rochester Union Thanksgiving Service at Temple Sinai, 363 Penfield Road at 11:00. Rev. Celie Katovitch of First Universalist Church will preach the sermon. The service is a tradition dating back more than 140 years, and is the longest-running interfaith collaboration of its kind in the country.

December 4

Church Women United hosted “Companions on the Journey of Advent” from 9:15 am to 1:30 pm in the Horizon Room at Brickstone (adjacent to St. John’s Meadows), 1325 Elmwood Ave. Gloria Ulterino and Jennifer Case will be speakers at this brown bag lunch event.

December 6

The 37th Annual Community Messiah Sing – Along, under the direction of Edith Rice, at 3:00 pm at the First Congregational Church, 58 N. Main Street, Canandaigua. Rehearsal will be at 1:00 pm and all singers are invited to join in singing. Scores will be provided, as well as refreshments between the rehearsal and the performance. Any questions, please call 394-2184.

December 10

A Human Rights Day 2015 Food Justice Program at 5:00pm at Downtown Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh Street. The event will include a Walk Thru the Food System at 5:00, a potluck dinner from 5:30 to 6:30, a briefing on Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 6:30 to 7, and a panel discussion from 7 to 7:45. For more information, visit www.rochesterhumanrights.org.

News from the Program and Mission Support Committee

With approval of the proposed 2016 budget at Fall Assembly, GVA will be distributing a total of \$16,000 to twelve different outreach programs and projects. New in 2016 will be Blue Star Mothers of Rochester, Friendship House in Yates County, and Congregational Samaritan Mission in Wellsville. Watch for a feature in the Trumpet each month in 2016 detailing how these community projects are making use of the GVA grants which in turn are made possible through each congregation’s covenant contributions to GVA.

- Lyle Jenks, P.A.M.S. convener

Note from the Editor: Thank you so much for your contributions to this newsletter. I look forward to hearing from more of you as we move forward. Please continue let me know what you and your church are doing so I can share it with your GVA sisters and brothers. The next deadline for the Trumpet newsletter is November 24 and the newsletter will be distributed on December 1. Send your information to gvaucc@gmail.com. Thanks!

REMINDER

**Please be sure to send your covenant contributions
to the GVA Office address
at P.O. Box 67263, Rochester, NY 14617.**



The Reflections column is a place where you can share your thoughts with others or tell people about something you have experienced that has made you think. Please send your reflection to gvaucc@gmail.com. Thanks!

Imagining a church without....

By Chris Schoon

John Bowen's most recent book *Green Shoots Out of Dry Ground* gathers contributions from a broad spectrum of church leaders from around Canada to express a hopeful vision for the future of the church in Canada. One of these contributions comes from

Cam Harder, who asks "What gifts do we have besides money, clergy, and buildings out of which to create ministry?" and then adds "too often we judge a church's viability according to its accumulation of those three resources."

What if we were a church without a pastor, he asks. I wonder if helping each other discover the gifts that God entrusted to us would take on a new urgency. I wonder what worship might look like, or how we would extend care for each other, or who would step up to teach the creeds and confessions, or lead a Bible study. What if the people of the church became the default leadership pool for these activities, rather than assuming "that's what we hired the pastor for?"

Or what if we were a church without a building? For most of us, I suspect that not having a building would decrease the need to have money (no utilities, no property insurance, no custodial staff or lawn maintenance). But more than that I suspect that if we still wanted to be a church community, we would need to think of creative ways to gather together...and the most likely option would be getting together in each other's homes.

What if our homes became the primary locations of church rather than a building with a fixed address? Would our kids grow up asking "When's church coming over?" instead of that oft-repeated question "Do I have to go to church?"

Would our neighbors be more willing to enter our home (or our backyards) to experience church than they are a designated building? I imagine that we would discover a multitude of different and exciting ways to steward the properties that God has entrusted to our churches if we were willing to ask: "How could we be church together if we had no building?"

Perhaps your church has gone through a season without much of a budget to speak of. Perhaps you are going through a time without a pastor. Perhaps you find yourself without a building in which to gather. What insights do you have about discovering what it means to be church when you don't have one or more of these resources to rely on?

To read more, go to <http://network.crcna.org/pastors/imagining-church-without>.