

CHURCH STAFF

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Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse
Art Osborne, Custodian
Dr. Mark and Diane Abbott, Spain
Blog: www.markabbott007.com
Rev. Paul D. Caseman, Alaska

PASTOR STEVE'S OFFICE HOURS

M, T, W: 9am - Noon

PASTOR DAN'S OFFICE HOURS

M, W, F: 9am - Noon

Cornerstone District Office
Christ First UMC
663 Lakeview Ave.
Jamestown, NY 14701

From Pastor Steve's Desk...

Welcome to this edition of Grace Notes! We're so glad you picked up this copy of the Panama United Methodist Church newsletter! Everything you need to know about what is going on at Panama United Methodist Church is in here...enjoy!

Family Tithing and Giving

Tithing, or giving one-tenth of your income to the ministry of the local church, is one of the most confusing issues that we deal with as faithful Christian individuals and families. Because there is so much confusion about this, we asked the experts at Crown Financial Ministries to give us an idea of what we should do in our stewardship. Here's what they say:

How much do you give?

Part of being a good manager, or steward, is giving back to God a portion of what He's entrusted to us. It's not that God "needs" our money. Rather, giving serves as an external, material testimony that God owns both the material and spiritual things of our lives. It also supports the greatest, most enduring work ever conducted in this world: the Lord's work.

One of the first standards of giving found in the Bible is the tithe, a word which means "tenth". Abraham tithed in Genesis 14 after returning from the daring rescue of his nephew Lot from four enemy kings. He encountered the priest Melchizedek and voluntarily surrendered to him one-tenth of all the spoils he had taken from his enemies. It's often said that the tithe is Old Testament "legalism", but Abraham tithed some 430 years before the Law was given to Moses.

The Promise of the Tithe

Although the tithe is mentioned in the Law, no punishment was indicated for not tithing. Consequences for not tithing included withholding of blessings, but this is not to be construed as punishment. Tithing has been, and always will be, a voluntary act on the part of God's people.

But although not tithing brings about a withholding of God's blessings, tithing with proper motives invokes God's blessings: "*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this' says the Lord of hosts, 'if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows'" (Malachi 3:10).*

When I calculate my tithe, should it be on my net or my gross income? Proverbs 3:9-10 says that God has asked for our first fruits, which is
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the first and best of all that we receive. That means we should tithe from our total income before taxes (gross).

If you have children, allowing your children to witness your giving, particularly when sacrifice is involved, will teach them the importance of commitment. Giving for applause or approval from others, however, is unscriptural.

Conclusion

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 9:7: "Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver." God is more concerned about the attitude of the heart in giving than the percentage or the amount given. Nevertheless, the minimum He has asked His people to give is the tithe.*

As you consider how God is working in your life and the blessings you have received from your commitment to Christian living, pray that God will guide you, as individuals and a family, to tithe as an external testimony of those blessings. When we listen to the Holy Spirit speaking to us, and when we feel that internal urging to give or serve, acting on that will bring blessings beyond our imagination.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

*Crown Financial Ministries, *Giving and Tithing*,
<http://www.crown.org/library/viewarticle.asp?id=10>, 2002

Ministry Opportunity

The Hospitality Team is looking for a ministry volunteer who is an early riser with a heart for hospitality to make coffee and prepare the hospitality table on Sunday mornings before Sunday School. This person would arrive at church around 8:30am to make coffee, stock cups, prepare the table and be available prior to Sunday School to keep the coffee flowing. No experience is necessary and on-the-job training is available. Please contact Pam Ireland (jireland4@stny.rr.com) or inquire in the office.

Pastor Steve's October Schedule



- 1 6p: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7p: Trustees Team Mtg
- 2 7p: Worship Team Mtg
- 3/4 Sabbath and Day Off; Wedding (Buffalo)
- 5 8:30a-12p: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship; 3p: Big Daddy Weave Concert
- 6 11a: Staff Mtg; 7p: Pre-marital session
- 7 1p: Visitations; 7p: Nominations Team Mtg
- 8 6p: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7p: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 10/11 Sabbath and Day Off; Wedding (Panama)
- 12 8:30a-12p: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 13 11a: Staff Mtg; 7p: Prayer
- 14 6:45a: Breakfast Mtg; 1p: Visitations; 7p: Band of Brothers
- 15 12p: Lunch Bunch; 6p: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7p: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 17/18 Sabbath and Day Off; Friends of Findley Work Weekend
- 19 8:30a-12p: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 20 11a: Staff Mtg; 7p: Prayer
- 21 1p: Visitations; 7p: Church Council Mtg; 8p: Safe Sanctuaries Mtg
- 22 6p: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7p: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 24/25 Sabbath and Day Off; 4p: Harvest Dinner (25th)
- 26 8:30a-12p: Prayer/Sunday School/Worship
- 27 11a: Staff Meeting; 7p: Prayer
- 28 1p: Visitations; 7p: Variety Show (PCS)
- 29 6p: Praise Team Rehearsal; 7p: Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 31/1 Sabbath and Day Off; 4:30p: Trunk or Treat Event (10/31)

October Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 Matthew Komarek, *Glenn/Melissa Topolski*
- 2 Charlotte Baehr, Dave Calcaterra, Amy Caldwell
- 3 Pam Ireland
- 4 Steve Halpainy, *Pat/Joyce Dole, Elizabeth/Jason Baehr*
- 5 Kyle Hinsdale, Ariana Range
- 6 Levi Munsee, Krista Odell, *Don/Tabetha Butler*
- 7 Adalynn Wiggers
- 9 Rose Hunt, *Dan/Casey McGaffick*
- 10 Rebecca Wheeler
- 12 Everett King, *Joe/Jean Edwards, Jeff/Jody Hay*
- 13 David Anderson
- 15 Ricky Eggleston, Stephanie Goodbear
- 16 Tom Dole
- 17 Lee Crosby, *Buck/Kristine Seekings*
- 18 Carm Catanese, Joyce Edwards, *Hugh/Gladys Wood*
- 19 Mary Rappole, *Adam/Tory Irgang*
- 20 Tammy Hosier, Sue Woods
- 21 Juliet Chapman
- 22 *Neil/Cindy Sturges*
- 23 Charlie Loveless, Kandi Torres
- 24 John Brown, Peter Crist, Stacy Furlow
- 25 Betty Crosby, Adam Irgang
- 26 Doug Hosier, Collin Wood
- 28 Amber Bemis, Allison Halpainy, *Brad/Shirley Osborne*
- 30 Debbie Becker, Joe Osborne
- 31 Dawn Sard, Melissa Wiggers



Happy Anniversary!!



Please let Pam Ireland or the office know if we need to update/add birthday or anniversary information for your family. This list is only as up to date and correct as the information we are given.

Sunday Morning Team - October

Ushers

Charlie and Debbie Loveless
Pat and Kristy Catanese

Nursery Helpers

October 5

Birth-2: Tena Dills and Carolyn Hughesman
3-4: Carm Catanese and Carrie Munsee

October 12

Birth-2: Jen and Claire Apthorpe
3-4: Marge and Graham Vollmer

October 19

Birth-2: Jason and Jolene Ayres
3-4: Cathy Erhard and Natalie Odell

October 26

Birth-2: Adam and Tory Irgang
3-4: Kim and Susie Davis

Thank you for volunteering to take care of our little ones during the worship service. We appreciate you!

DISCOVERY COURSE FOR NEW MEMBERS AND BAPTISMS

In October and November, Pastor Steve will be leading a new members and baptism course for anyone interested. The course will be six weeks and will discover the basics of the Christian faith, what it means to grow in Christ, and your place in the ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ here at Panama UMC. If you have not been baptized and would like to be, this course is for you. If you are interested, or have questions, please let Pastor Steve or Debbie in the church office know.

The first class will be October 5th at 9am (during the Sunday School time). Baptisms and new members will be welcomed on December 7th during worship.

A sign-up sheet will be available on the Welcome Table. See you there!



With Sympathy to the Family of...

Cherry Potter
who passed away on August 26, 2014

Cherry was the sister-in-law of Betty Crosby.

The love and prayers of the PUMC family are with you
and your loved ones as you continue through
this time of grief and adjustment.

Visitation Ministry

October 5

Kathy Smith TW 218

Jack/Linda Sturges

October 12

Kathy Smith TW 218

Diane Johnson

October 19

Kathy Smith TW 218

Bill Peck

October 26

Kathy Smith TW 218

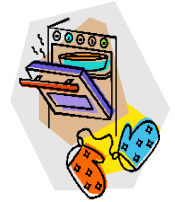
Lester/Wyona Wevers

No CDs or DVDs - just a visit and a bulletin

Warm Cinnamon Apple Crisp

Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse

- 5 c. peeled, sliced apples
- 3/4 c. granulated no calorie sweetener
(like Splenda)
- 1/2 tsp. plus 3/4 tsp. cinnamon, divided
- 1 Tbsp. plus 1/4 c. all purpose flour, divided
- 6 Tbsp. old fashioned rolled oats
- 1/4 c. graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 c. walnuts (optional)
- 1 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 3 Tbsp. cold margarine or butter cut into 1/2 inch pieces



1. Preheat oven to 375. Coat an 8” baking dish with cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, mix the apples, 1/4 c. sweetener, 1/2 tsp. of the cinnamon and 1 Tbsp. of the flour.
3. In a medium bowl, combine the remaining ingredients. Cut in the margarine using a pastry blender or by hand, until the mixture resembles coarse meal and butter is the size of peas.
4. Pour the apple mixture into the prepared pan. Top with the crumb mixture.
5. Bake for 30 minutes, until the top is crisp and the apples are tender.

Makes 6 servings:

185 calories; 32g carbs; 7g fat; 3g protein; 3g fiber;
5 Weight Watchers Points Plus

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

*Do you have your boxes ready for the collection?
November is NEXT month!!!!*

Any guesses on how many we will collect?

Safe Sanctuaries

(Carol Hay)

The Safe Sanctuaries Committee is fulfilling one of their responsibilities by reminding everyone of the *Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines*, which were written, shared and revised to help ensure our church provides a safe and comfortable place for everyone - from the smallest child to the most vulnerable adult.

Our *Guidelines* require each adult, working with children, complete a brief form which gives the church information we can use in case of an emergency with that adult, and also provides assurances that each adult working with children knows the *Guidelines* and is committed to providing a safe environment for children. If you are a Sunday School teacher, work in the nursery, help in VBS, supervise youth at church or during activities, you must have a completed long or short form on file in the church office. Youth working with younger children must also have a completed form in the church office.

Parents of children attending Sunday School, staying in one of the nurseries, or participating in church programs of any kind also have responsibilities to ensure the safety of their children. All parents must complete a very brief "profile" form for each child. This includes the child's name, the parents' names, any allergies of the child, and who may pick the child up from Sunday School class or from the nursery. Parents must also sign children into the nursery each Sunday and sign the children out of the nursery after services.

Because 3 and 4 year olds often go to their nursery after the children's message and parents do not accompany them down there, a sign in sheet will be provided on the Welcome Table and parents may sign their child into the nursery prior to the worship service.

All procedures are in place to ensure the protection and safety of our children. Compliance takes but a moment and provides safety for everyone.

If you would like a copy of the *Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines*, please as in the church office.

W.A.M. (Women and Missions)

The October meeting of W.A.M. will be held on Monday, **October 13th** at **NOON**. We are looking forward to meeting with the women from the Clymer area at the **Dutch Village**.

Joyce Winner and Berta Mae Ives will be sharing their mission experiences.

We hope you will be able to join us for this time of fellowship with ladies from "a couple of hills over".

Friends of Findley Work Weekend At Camp Findley

We've been to Red Bird. We've been to Haiti. We've been lots of places in Jesus' name. Here's an opportunity to go over the hill to Camp Findley, to be the hands and feet of Jesus.



This October (17-19), there is an opportunity to serve God outside the walls of the church, and nearby. The Friends of Findley are having a work weekend to get the camp ready for the winter retreat season. The work weekend will be held from Friday through Sunday, but you can come anytime.

Projects will include light construction, cleaning, trails maintenance, and gardening, along with food, fun, fellowship, and getting away from home for a few days at Camp. Lodging and food are provided for anyone who comes to work.

We would like to challenge the PUMC to send 15 people out from this church to Camp Findley for this local mission work camp. See Pastor Steve for details.

Register on the Camp Findley website or call the camp office at 716-769-7146

(Discipleship Groups, continued)

Baptisms



Rhett Weston Braun

(Son of Ken and Katie Braun)

and

Matthew Todd Kolstee

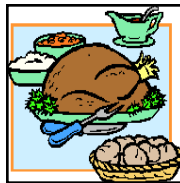
(Son of Todd and Amanda Kolstee)

were baptized on
Sunday, September 21, 2014
by
Pastor Steven M. Taylor
at the Panama United Methodist Church.

We, as a community of believers,
welcome Rhett and Matthew
in Christian love and we pray God's richest blessings
upon them as they grow and mature in their faith.

HARVEST DINNER and BAZAAR OCTOBER 25th

Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings!
Check out the list of items still available to
be donated towards the dinner.



Donations are needed for the Bazaar
and Bake Sale. All baked goods are welcomed.
Past experience has proven that pies, quick breads
and homemade fudge are the biggest sellers.
Thanks in advance!

R.A.D.I.C.A.L (Carl and Susie Davis)

This group normally meets the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. They are using a new James MacDonald series entitled, "Drop the Rock". The following is a description from Walk in the Word website: "Chances are you are not seeing clearly... especially when it comes to your sin and how you react to the sins of others. And chances are you will soon face a situation where you need to *Drop the Rock*. Let this message from John 8 show you how to avoid the modern-day stoning: labeling, condemning, and the kind of judgment that Jesus hates. The Word of God and the example of Christ give you the only perspective you really need: His."

appleoakstreefarm@yahoo.com or

suesue5@windstream.net

716-782-4611 or 716-640-7043

Ladies of Light (Cindy Furlow)

LoL began on September 29th with a new study and will meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. All women are invited to "Come Grow With Us" with fellowship, food, laughter, and anything else that God directs.

cfurlow@chautauquamachine.com

716-782-2775

Band of Brothers (Howie Wheeler)

2nd Tuesday of the month

wheelerhoward55@gmail.com

716-763-0879

Kyle and Brynne Hinsdale

One Saturday a month

kbhinsdale@windstream.net

716-355-4382

Discipleship (Small Group) Note

Jon and Becky Cable

Please consider joining one of the discipleship groups. The leaders (and their contact information) are listed on the following page.

If you are looking to know Christ and to make Him known, if you are looking to be transformed to be more like Christ and less like the world, if you are looking for encouragement and support in your walk with Christ, then one of the discipleship groups is for you. If you have any questions about discipleship groups at PUMC, contact Jon and Becky Cable at 543-5050 / jonbec95@gmail.com. You could also call the church office at 782-4031 or at debbie.johnson@panamaum.org.

Panama UMC Discipleship Group Information

Preparing for Rain (Jon and Becky Cable)

This group resumed their study of the Psalms starting September 16th. Anyone interested in joining this group is welcome call for more information.

Every other Tuesday
jonbec95@gmail.com
716-543-5050

C.H.A.T (George and Trudy Anderson)

This group meets the first Thursday of every month. October 2 at 6pm we will meet at Anderson's home for dinner and devotions.

gaanderson@windstream.net
716-782-3252

We Care (Thea Kester)

Every other Thursday at 12pm at Rowdy Rooster
rtkester@windstream.net
716-782-4620

COFFEE SALE **to support** **Camping Scholarships**

Coffee will be for sale at church during the month of October and at the Harvest Dinner for \$9.00 per bag.

Single Origin Coffee
Blends and Decaffeinated
Flavored
Ground or Whole Bean

Don't find a flavor you like?
Want to give coffee as a Christmas gift?
Orders will also be taken for delivery in early December.

Please see Stacy Taylor, Susie Davis or any camper with questions or to place an order.

Thank you, in advance, for your support of our efforts to help us
Send kids to camp!



After school SNACKS are needed for our CONNECTIONS children.

Please bring your donations and place them in the large pink tub under the coat rack.

THANK YOU!

Hello, Panama UMC!

Can it already be fall? It really doesn't seem so, but it's coming fast! It has been a great start to this new season so far and I look forward to seeing how God continues to bless our church, especially our youth and family ministries!

Youth:

We have had an awesome start to the Youth Group year and look forward to starting a new lesson series called *Living Like Christ*. We will be looking at 1 Timothy 4:12 and each of the character traits that Paul encouraged Timothy to display as an example for all believers regardless of his young age.

A date to keep in mind and get onto your calendar is our first DCYM event of the year! We will be having a worship and games night at Bemus Point UMC on Sunday, October 12. We will meet here at PUMC at 5:30pm and get back to church around 8:30pm.

I also want to give you an update on the Impact Campus Fellowship ministry that takes place at Panama Central School. We started our first full school year of having both a Sr. and Jr. High group at PCS. We have been averaging about 45 total students between the two groups and are seeing an uptick in attendance. Students have been hearing messages on the Gospel multiple times and it is always encouraging to know that students are hearing the Gospel in the public school during the school day! Our annual See You At The Pole prayer time went well, too! We had 38 students show up and 14 adults came to support and pray alongside them! That is awesome!

Confirmation:

Confirmation starts on Sunday, October 19 from 4:30-6pm. If your student is still interested, please contact me ASAP so that we can get you caught up on details and also get a Confirmation Mentor lined up for you.

Sunday School:

We have made a good start to the Sunday School year. We had an awesome Sunday School kick off and are now settled into the
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year. If you have not made it to a class, please come out at 9am on a Sunday morning and try one. We have classes for all ages!

Classes this year will be:

PreK: Karen Morton and Buck Seekings

K-1: Becky Cable

2-4: Jan Wheeler and Linda Sturges

5-8: Carl Davis and Howie Wheeler

9-12: Pastor Dan and Dean Sprague

Adult: Kyle and Brynne

Adult: George Anderson

Adult: Denny and Cindy Furlow

Sr. Adult: Stacy Taylor

I hope and pray that you find a Sunday School class that will help you to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Family:

We are planning a fall themed Family Fellowship Night for the month of did you October and will hopefully be doing some pumpkin carving and eating some great fall foods. Stay tuned to the bulletin, Sunday announcements, and the ChurchMail emailing for details coming soon.

What did you think of the daily family devotional from Josh McDowell at <http://www.josh.org/resources/daily-devotional/todays-family-devotional/> this past month? I hope that you and your family was blessed by it. This month's family devotional suggestion is a list of family devotion suggestions from Natasha Crain: Inspiration For Intentional Christian Parenting: <http://christianmomthoughts.com/25-family-devotional-time-ideas/>. Please let me know which resources are the most helpful and which ones weren't so that I can offer the best resources.

Please remember to pray for the youth of our church as they are representing Jesus Christ at school and during their extra-curricular activities. Please pray for the Youth Ministry Support Team, Family Ministry Support Team, and the Christian Education Team as they continue to work to provide the best ministry opportunities for our church family.

Be Blessed!

Pastor Dan <><