



GRACE NOTES - February 2017

**Rev. Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor
Panama United Methodist Church**

From Pastor Steve's Desk...

Welcome to this edition of the 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 and our community is in here...enjoy!

The Great Invitation

“As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter,
And Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea - for they were fishermen.
And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’”

Matthew 4:18-19

When the first disciples heard a voice calling to them from the shoreline, while they were out in their boats, making a living by fishing the waters of the Sea of Galilee, I wonder if they knew that it would change their lives? Did they look up the first time Jesus said their names, or did it take a few minutes to find the source of the voice? However it happened, eventually, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John and the rest of the Twelve men that Jesus first called to work with him, answered that voice and started working with Jesus. The message was simple: “Jesus has come to save the world from our sins. He is the Messiah, the One we’ve been waiting for. What the Prophets have always told us is now coming true in this man, Jesus.” Some people agreed. Some people didn’t care. Still others rejected the message, the disciples, and the man, Jesus.

(Continued on page 2)

Panama United Methodist Church Mission Statement

**We seek to love the Lord God by introducing people to
His Son Jesus Christ and helping these relationships to grow.**

From Pastor Steve's Desk...(Continued from page 1)

Regardless of the response from those various groups or people, one thing remained constant: Jesus invited them. Whether they were fishing in a boat, mending nets by the shore, taking care of poor people, counting money, or even less honorable trades, the one thing that all the disciples experienced was an invitation. Jesus said to each of them, "Follow me..."



The rest of the gospels and the New Testament tell the story of what happened after those women and men accepted Jesus' invitation. They went on to heal people, teach, start new groups of believers, and spread the message Jesus brought throughout the earth. They also were persecuted, jailed, tortured, and killed for that same message. You see, The Great Invitation is an offer to walk with Jesus, to live like Jesus, and, for sure, to lay down your life for Him. There is nothing in Jesus' invitation that makes any claims that you'll be spared any of the things the first disciples and Jesus himself didn't have to endure.

The Great Invitation is delivered to you today. It's the most incredible invitation you'll ever receive. And it's one that you simply cannot keep to yourself. Once you accept the invitation, you now walk the shores of your community to speak to a new group of people who are ready to hear the same voice of Jesus speaking through you. The Great Invitation does not stop in your mailbox, but gets passed on through you to the world! Let's get out there and hand the world the love and life of Christ!

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

Coming soon...
to a Fellowship Hall near you!
Souper Sundae
(Soup and Sundaes)

Sunday, February 5, following worship

COST is by donation...
Proceeds will benefit the YOUTH!

You won't want to miss it!

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

This year, during Lent (March - April), several people from Panama UMC and Park UMC will be providing daily devotionals for us to read and on which we will reflect.

These devotionals will be available on February 26 in worship...
Don't forget to get your copy!

SUNDAY MORNING TEAM for FEBRUARY

Ushers

Charlie and Debbie Loveless
Ted and Sharon Passarelli

Nursery Helpers **February 5**

Birth-2: Kelly Osborne and Lilly Odell
3-4: Marge Vollmet and Graham Vollmer

February 12

Birth-2: Ken and Katie Braun
3-4: Andrew Lescynski and Kathy Foulk

February 19

Birth-2: Julia Nelson and Thea Kester
3-4: Stacy Taylor and Carolyn Hughesman

February 26

Birth-2: Tina Akam and Riley Seekings
3-4: Kim Davis and Susie Davis

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

If something comes up and you cannot serve,
please trade with someone or find a replacement.
You may call Debbie in the Church office
(M-TH) by calling 782-4031.

THANK YOU!!

***Be sure to keep updated on PUMC
meetings and events by checking the
online calendar and Pastor Steve's week-
ly Churchmail.***

***The PUMC website is
www.panamaum.org
Did you know we are also on
Facebook? Check us out at
www.facebook.com/panamaum***

***You certainly wouldn't want to
miss the "happenings"
by being uninformed!***



Looking for a way to share God's love? Feeling hospitable?

Join the Sunday Morning Hospitality Team!
We can use your help to greet people as
they come in our doors and share a cup of
coffee with them.

Julia Nelson is in charge of the coffee hour
while Mary and Bert are away. If you would
like to bake, purchase treats, make coffee,
etc., please see Julia.

We are also always looking for door greeters
during the 9 a.m. hour. You can sign up on
the Welcome Table or call the church office.

YOU can be the happy, welcoming face
newcomers encounter when they
first enter God's house in Panama.



The Cable's 2017 Santisuk English School Mission Trip

We just want to say a great big THANK YOU for
all your prayer support and financial support of
us as we go to Bangkok, Thailand to teach Eng-
lish for 4 weeks.

Please know that we appreciate all of you and
that we don't go there alone. We go represent-
ing PUMC and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
who makes all things possible.

We look forward to sharing with you all our ad-
ventures once we return in March.

Thank you so much for all your kindness and
support.

Jon, Becky, Josh and Gracie

Church Council
It's all about the conversations!
(Carol Hay)

No matter where you are, if you need a conversation opener, you can always use the weather. As I listened to a waiting room conversation where everyone had an opinion about the weather, I wondered what other topic would elicit the participation of so many people who don't know each other.

We are advised to stay away from talking about politics and religion, which makes me a bit sad....how can we learn from others if we cannot talk about topics where people have different viewpoints. Why is it we cannot have good debate about topics we are passionate about and hold strong opinions? Maybe we need to learn how to express our ideas so that a dialogue can be a learning tool and differing opinions can be the basis of reflection.

Another reason to be thankful for Panama United Methodist Church! We do have the opportunity through our church small groups, discipleship classes, Bible study groups, and team meetings to talk about religion! We can discuss our God, directives Jesus gave us for our lives, and the church's role in teaching and reaching out to others. Within these groups, we are with people who also want to discuss, express opinions, and learn from each other. We don't have to be afraid others won't like what we say - we know this is the place where dialogue is allowed, encouraged, and viewed as a valuable learning tool. We are blessed to have leaders in groups and classes who ask questions that make us think and who offer resources that provide us with wisdom. We are blessed to have peers who listen respectfully, offer their personal thoughts, and give us the opportunity to express ourselves. The learning we do through these discussions certainly will make us better people.

Wouldn't it be delightful if we could have these same kinds of conversations with strangers! Instead of hearing their opinions about the weather, maybe we'd learn some insightful things that would help us bridge a cultural divide and learn the reasons they believe as they do. Maybe we'd develop a new friendship. Maybe we'd have the opportunity to witness for God. Why stymie the opportunity to learn from each other by avoiding topics such as religion? Think of the changes we could initiate if we could just have civil conversations where we express ideas and learn from each other.

In the meantime, let's be thankful we have our church groups where we can discuss more than the weather. We can have meaningful dialogue and learn from each other.

Praise God!

Another Haiti Opportunity!

Bert and Mary Rappole are gathering a team to go to Haiti from **April 22 - April 29, 2017.**

'This team will be staying in Port au Prince and working at the new school at Gallette.

The goal is to work with the teachers for an in-service which will be led by Kathy Adams, retired Ohio State professor.

The remaining team members will be making desks, painting, and other small projects.

The cost is about \$1,200 each for travel and lodging.

Please contact the Rappole's via email or phone.

They need to know of your interest by **February 15!**

Journey to the Holy Land

with Pastor Steve and Stacy Taylor (your hosts)
and

Bishop Mark Webb of the UNYAC of the UMC
January 9-19, 2018

Please consider being a part of this adventure in faith and join Pastor Steve, Stacy and Bishop Webb to experience this once in a lifetime journey to the Holy Land as you see the Bible come to life!

Brochures are available on the Welcome Table.

Save the date and bring a friend!

What is a Scholarship?

Winston Simplified Dictionary #3: financial support for a student supplied by an educational institution or by an individual; **New Vest Pocket, Webster's Dictionary #2:** money given to help a student

Hart-Button Pastor & Missionary Scholarship Fund **(Originated 1994)**

The Memorial Scholarship Fund is in memory of Lawrence D. Hart, his parents, Clayton S. and Norah S. Hart, and his aunt, Edith S. Button.

The purpose of the Memorial Scholarship Fund is to provide financial assistance to dedicated members of the Panama United Methodist Church, who have felt the call to go into Christian Service, either as a United Methodist pastor or a United Methodist missionary.

The Memorial Scholarship Fund will be managed by the Panama United Methodist Church Finance Committee. The Finance Committee and Barbara D. Hart, as long as she lives, will make all decisions as to who may receive financial assistance and the yearly amount to be awarded to each applicant.

Any Panama United Methodist Church member over the age of 17 years, who has been a member for at least two years, and is dedicated to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as a pastor or missionary, may apply. Financial assistance from the scholarship fund will be awarded for study in a United Methodist related college, seminary or two year preparatory college.

Applicant will be awarded assistance in the form of a grant. However, the grant is contingent on the applicant performing five years of Christian service after completion of his/her education. If the applicant fails to perform the mandatory service, repayment of funds is required. The depletion of the fund is not to exceed \$5000 per year. This amount may be awarded to an individual or to multiple persons within the year. This amount is not a guarantee, nor should it be an expectation, of the award. Grant value will be determined individually and annually. Requestor will apply by application and interview with the Finance Committee.

Any interested persons who wish to support this Memorial Scholarship Fund are welcomed and appreciated. It is my wish that this Memorial Scholarship Fund be updated and printed in the January issue of the church newsletter each year.

In my Precious Savior's Name,
Barbara Hart

January/February 2017

C O N N E C T I O N S

**We are always in need of snacks
and we thank you in advance for
your generosity!**

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT!!

PUMC Youth will babysit at church on Saturday, February 11,
between 5pm and 9pm, for a donation.
This will be for children of parents who would like a date night.
(Valentine's Day is just around the corner!)

You MUST register in advance!
Sign-up sheet is available on the Welcome Table.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The February 14 Church Council meeting
has been cancelled. We will still collect
written reports from all team members,
though, to keep everyone up-to-date.

Happy Valentine's Day!

**Come and check out the
*****LUNCH BUNCH*****
Find it on February's calendar
and make plans to join us!**

From the Parish Nurse...

Baklava Popcorn

1/2 c. honey
2 Tbsp. butter
1 tsp vanilla extract
1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 c. walnuts, chopped
10 c. light popcorn

In a small glass mixing bowl, add honey and butter and microwave for 30 seconds, until butter is melted (before adding honey to measuring cup, mist with nonstick cooking spray to prevent honey from sticking).

When honey-butter mixture is well combined, add vanilla extract and cinnamon, stir and set aside.

Lay chopped walnuts on a baking sheet and lightly toast in oven.

Drizzle honey mixture over popcorn, tossing as you drizzle to ensure it's evenly distributed through popcorn batch.

Makes 7 servings; serving size is 1 1/2 cups

Calories: 160; Protein: 2g; Fat: 5g;
Cholesterol: 5g; Carbs: 29g; Fiber: 2g;
Sugar: 20g

February Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 Joel Keefer
- 2 Kevin Rowe, Marissa Trisket
- 3 Eric Scolton, Anna VandeVelde
- 4 Willson Baer, Howie Wheeler
- 5 Jeff Enlow, Bill Schneider
- 6 Carl Davis III, Brenda Ireland, Braden Topolski
- 8 Alexandra Baer
- 11 Anna Cartwright
- 12 Devin Ireland, Richard King, Paige Munson
- 13 Trudy Anderson, Emily Baker, Joe Edwards
- 14 Marissa Topolski
- 16 Bob Tordella
- 18 Dean Sprague
- 19 Natalie Odell
- 20 Adam Rupczyk, Diane Johnson, Averie Seekings
- 21 Wyona Wevers
- 24 Corinne Edwards, Joan Hinderer
- 25 Sara Waller
- 26 John Elfvin, Bryce Ireland, Emily King, Mark Akam
- 27 Chase Hartnett, Marcia King
- 28 Zoe Kester, Jon Wood
- 29 Briana Johnson

A look ahead to March...

- 1 Dylan Peck, **Keith/Cindy Miller**
- 8 Jennifer Johnson, Wende Lescynski
- 9 Sally Baer, Greg Ireland

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

On Wednesday, March 1, we will kick-off the season that leads to Easter (April 16) by worshipping. This day is known as Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It falls 40 weekdays before Easter (Sundays aren't counted in the 40 days of Lent). Ash Wednesday takes its name from ashes, a traditional Jewish sign of penitence. In some traditions, palm fronds or palm crosses from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned, and then the ashes are applied to the worshiper's forehead on Ash Wednesday as a token of their commitment to observe a "holy Lent".

Ancient Christian tradition was to observe Lent with fasting (a discipline of going without food at certain times), study, self-examination, confession and prayer. During this time, candidates for Holy Baptism were prepared for baptism on Easter Eve. Many churches continue those traditions.

Join us for worship at 7pm on Wednesday March 1!

Our Sympathy to the families of...

James A. Rea

Jim was born on September 18, 1936 in Jamestown, NY.
He passed away on December 3, 2016.

Jim is survived by his wife, Sharon Button Rea.
He is also survived by his sons, Thomas and Terry,
his daughter, Tammy and three grandchildren,
Joshua, Brandon and Jillian.

Memorials can be made to the Panama Fire Department
or the
Erie Regional cancer Center Foundation.

and

Ruth Gerber Russ

Ruth was born on January 5, 1920 in Sewickley, Pa.
She passed away on December 17, 2016 in Burlington, NC
where she resided with her daughter.

She is survived by her daughter, Mary (John) Cole,
Six grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband,
Walter A. Russ, who passed away in 2004.

Memorials can be made to Hospice of Burlington, NC
or to the
Panama United Methodist Church.

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

PUMC Discipleship Group Information

CHAT

George and Trudy Anderson
First Thursday of every month
gaanderson@windstream.net; 782-3252

RADICAL

Carl and Susie Davis
1st and 3rd Saturday of each month
appleoaktreefarm@yahoo.com or suesue5@windstream.net; 782-4611

Ladies of Light

Cindy Furlow
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month; 7pm
cfurlow@chautauquamachinecom; 782-2775

Band of Brothers

Craig Vollmer
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month; 7pm
craig.vollmer@gmail.com; 763-0879

Kyle and Brynne Hinsdale

One Saturday per month
kbhinsdale@windstream.net; 355-4382

We Care

Thea Kester
Every other Thursday at noon at the Rowdy Rooster
rtkester@windstream.net; 782-4620

Women and Missions (WAM)

Kathy Foulk
2nd Monday monthly at the Rowdy Rooster (April - December)
ofoulks2@windstream.net; 782-4467 or 499-6437

For more information concerning PUMC Discipleship Groups, contact the church office at 782-4031 or at debbie.johnson@panamaum.org. You may also contact Jon and Becky Cable, our Discipleship Group Leaders at 543-5050 or at jonbec95@gmail.com.

**Discipleship is a lifestyle filled with relationships;
a life of pouring yourself out for others.**

CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Steven M. Taylor, Lead Pastor
steven.taylor@panamaum.org

Debbie Johnson, Ministry Coordinator/Admin. Asst.
debbie.johnson@panamaum.org

Candy Scarem, Student Ministry Director
candy.scarem@panamaum.org

Julie Nagel, Music Director/Accompanist
Krista Odell, Accompanist

Jody Marsh, Parish Nurse

Robert Burkholder, Custodian

Sandy Crossley, Connections

Joan Monroy, Connections

Dr. Mark and Diane Abbott, Spain

Blog: www.markabbott007.com

Rev. Paul D. Caseman, Alaska

Pastor Steve's Office Hours
9:00am - Noon: M, T and W

Church Phone (716) 782-4031

Church Fax # (716) 782-2326

Church E-mail – contact@panamaum.org

Church website - www.panamaum.org

www.facebook.com/panamaum

Please check the calendar inside for
weekly meetings and activities
for the month of February.

Cornerstone District Office

Christ First UMC

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Jamestown, NY 14701

(716) 665-2423

www.facebook.com/panamaum

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