

UNITED METHODIST HOUSE NEWS

Box 115 Chautauqua, New York 716 357-2055

September 2015



*The United Methodist House in Chautauqua
is open year round for retreats,
rest and renewal and family gatherings.
For information and reservations,
please call 716 357-4045*

A Message From Our President



Summer 2015 was another successful season of activity at the United Methodist House. Our superb hosts, Karen and Bob Douds, greeted many guests who may have spent a week, an hour, or a moment; and then left having experienced the hospitality of our porch.

Another Chautauqua season is in the memory books. When my husband retired July 1st after 43 years of ministry, I was looking forward to an endless summer. Imagine my surprise that even in retirement - the summer comes to a close. In fact, I think the summer went even faster this year!

As thoughts of fall and winter approach, groups have reserved the House during this retreat season. Work will be undertaken to replace our roof hopefully stemming the tide of indoor spring flooding. And Chautauqua Institution will be working on their plan to improve the Amphitheater, which will eventually impact the view from our porch. We don't know exactly how the view may change from our porch, but those looking from the Amp toward the United Methodist House will continue to see a sight of welcome, respite, and hospitality.

Throughout this newsletter you can read about the workings of the UM House and reports from those who volunteer their time to keep it humming. **Thank you to all of them.** I expect that in no time we will be unrolling the porch carpet and setting out those chairs again!

Brenda Baird, Board President

Greetings From Our United Methodist House Couple

Summer 2015 at the United Methodist House will soon be a joyful memory and our appreciation to all those who made it so special fills our hearts.

We appreciate all who worshipped with us, shared coffee on the porch, attended our weekly events, stayed with us, rocked on the porch and those who couldn't be with us this summer that remembered us.

Thank you chaplains, who shared a week of your lives to enrich our spirits, share the joys and concerns of our guests and visitors and keep our porch clean! This summer our thanks go to Rev. Colleen Preuninger, Rev. J.

Paul Womack, Rev. Darrell Greenawalt, Rev. Jeffrey McDowell, Rev. Ogden Warman, Rev. Angela Gay Kinkead, Rev. G. Alan Benson, Rev. David Harris and Rev. Ann Hutchins.

Every Tuesday, dozens of folks stop at the porch to share in our "Tea". The cookies and punch brought by United Methodist church groups are known as the best cookies on the grounds. We thank Edinboro, Elma, Park (Northeast, PA), Lakewood Erie, Grace (Warren, PA), Kane First (Tonawanda, NY), Grand Island and Clarence United Methodist Churches for sharing a wonderful afternoon with us.

Thank you musicians who graced us with your talent on Sunday mornings. A very special thanks to Celia Thompson, our organist for the summer!

Thank you Debbie Caruso for partnering in so many ways. Thank you Jenna and Darlene for keeping the House shining and fresh. Thank you Dennie Stahlsmith for making Saturday dinners such a pleasure. Thank you John Jackson for another summer of hot popcorn on Friday nights. Thank you coffee angel who provides Fair Trade coffee for the summer.

Thank you Dave and Cindy Shuff who host and manage the House during the nine-month retreat season and are available all summer to support the summer hosts.

Thank you members of our faithful gardening group who planted and weeded and fertilized and trimmed all summer to keep the grounds around the House lovely. Cindy Shuff, Drew and Susan Heitzenrater, your touch is evident!

We extend our appreciation to the best Board of Directors ever for keeping the House and the operation of it consistently beautiful and efficient. Thank you to all who have shared a "work party" weekend as we gather pre and post season to prepare the House for the next season.

As we conclude our seventh summer as hosts of this historic United Methodist House, we are so thankful for the opportunity to be the visible "face" of welcome but know it can only be done with the support of many!

Until we meet again,

Bob and Karen Douds, Host Couple

Property Committee Report

Just an update on what the property committee is doing this retreat season.

We will have a new roof installed on the entire house at a cost of \$28,000. **We have received \$18,600 to pay for this so we need some more contributions.** At the same time we are having the roof replaced, we will have the contractor lift up one panel of under layment and see if the block walls are open or closed. If they are open it means they serve as a chimney and heat the roof and cause our severe ice problems. If they are we will need to address this problem while the roof is open.

Also, the Johnson brothers will replace the set of steps going down into the garden area to the north. They will also investigate the porch decking at that end of the porch to check for rot there. They will also replace the gutter above the stairs that was damaged several years ago. The committee is also making a change on the steps. We have asked for there to be five steps instead of the four, that makes it less of a rise for each step, thus making it much easier to go up or down those stairs.

We are looking at having a set of canvas covers made for the upstairs porch railings to protect them during the winter months, the railings were replaced about ten years ago and the spindles are rapidly coming apart. This will be done only to the upper set of railings. Jamestown Awning who will also take down, set up and store them during the summer will do this.

Also, our next big project will be by the turret. We will be asking for bids of fixing the foundation on that end of the house. The stacked stones there are visibly moving out of alignment. This is a project that will not be delayed long. It is crucial that we keep our foundation safe.

Plus, we have all the little projects that will need doing at our next work weekend. It will be held on Saturday, October 31st. We usually start around nine in the morning, break for lunch (not provided) and finish up what we can in the afternoon. If you want to, you can stay at the house for the entire weekend for free. You just have to work on Saturday. Just call Debbie (716 357-4045) at Hurlbut Church, to make reservations.

Chuck Bolan, Property Committee Chair

Synopsis of the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

President Brenda Baird called the annual meeting to order at 4 PM on July 15, 2014.

The Rev. Patterson, Erie Meadville District Superintendent, offered a meditation on Hebrews chapter 11.

Dave Shuff reported on the activities of the Property Committee. Future projects include; replacing the roof, replacing the stairs at the Bowman Garden end of the porch with ones that have more gentle risers, replacing the batteries in the emergency lights, replacing some spindles and painting the railings on the upper porch, installing lightning rods on the roof, repairing the stacked stone foundation under the turret end of the house and installing a microwave oven and exhaust fan over the stove. Other needs that are being investigated include additional storage space, the sign, review of the house wiring and repainting the cross and flame on the porch. Dave thanked all trustees and others who helped during work weekends and throughout the year.

The Communications Committee will investigate changing to a new Wi Fi provider to improve service. The Newsletter will continue as in the past and include e-mail addresses of board members and upcoming meeting dates. Chris Redmond will continue as website editor and Bob Douds will continue managing our Facebook page and the Hosts' Blog.

The Ministry Committee selects chaplains from the Upper NY Annual conference, the Western PA Annual Conference and the general United Methodist church. The chaplain application form is being revised so that those who are invited to serve are not asked to apply.

Bob Douds reported for the Host Couple. We have hosted a full house throughout the season including young and old as resident guests and porch visitors. We are grateful for our "Coffee Angel" and ladies from nine different churches that provide punch and cookies to allow us to be so hospitable. Losses of close members over the past year include Al Wilcox, Arch Moran and Mort November. We hold their families in our prayers.

Mike Corey reported for the Finance committee. The 2014-15 fiscal year ended with a balance of \$68,670, including a net income for the year of \$18,142. Our investment account with the Methodist Fund is at \$45,958. A proposed budget for 2015-16 was presented which is basically the same as for the prior year except for the cost of replacing the roof. The budget was approved by unanimous vote.

Carolyn Stow gave the Nominating Committee report. Brenda thanked Dave Shuff and Don Weaver for their 9 years of service and presented each with a gift. Dave and Don expressed how privileged they were to have served. Nominations for Board members, class of 2018, included three incumbents, Willow Brost, Mike Corey and J Howard Wright and two new members, Conrad Howard and Rev. Natalie Hanson. The nominations were approved by unanimous vote. The incumbent Board officers, Brenda Baird, President; Rev. Beth Nelson, Vice President; Mike Corey, Treasurer and Rev. Carolyn Stow, Secretary, were elected for another term. President Baird recognized the members of the board and thanked them for their contributions.

Judie Peterson was recognized for her work as Financial Secretary. She serves as an Ex Officio member of the Board of Trustees.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer offered by Paul Womack.
 (From the minutes by Carolyn Stow)

United Methodist House Trustees

Class of 2016 (Western PA)

Roger Brumagin	firstaid@velocity.net
Barry Lewis	bl643lewis@yahoo.com
Beth Nelson	BethLNelson1@gmail.com

Class of 2017 (Upper NY)

Brenda Baird	bbaird52@aol.com
Lee Mount	leelaine@twcny.rr.com
Carolyn Stow	pastor.carolyn.stow@gmail.com

Class of 2018 (Chautauqua Community)

Willow Brost	willowb74@live.com
Mike Corey	corey@mikecorey.com
Rev. Natalie Hanson	nataliehanson@netsync.net
Conrad Howard	pamconradhow@yahoo.com
J. Howard Wright	(none)

Ex-Officio

Sherri Rood	sherrirood@unyumc.org
Joe Patterson	emdsip@gmail.com
Judie Peterson	japete@windstgream.net
Chuck Bolan	chonnie@twc.com
Carmen Perry	carmenperry10@yahoo.com

Host Couple

Karen and Bob Douds douds2@comcast.net

Meeting Schedule

Fall Work Weekend - Oct 30, 31 Nov 1

Board Meeting – Jun 17, 2 pm

Spring Work Weekends – Jun 10 - 12 & Jun 17 - 19

Board Meeting – Jul 13, 3 pm

Annual Meeting Jul 13, 4 pm

Board Meeting – Aug 29, 2 pm

All meetings at the United Methodist House
 Committees meet prior to Board Meetings
 at the call of the chair.

Newsletter Article Deadlines

Sept 1, Dec 1, May 1

About the United Methodist House

The United Methodist House is located at 14 Pratt Ave, directly behind the Chautauqua Amphitheater. It was built in 1888 as a Methodist Episcopal Headquarters for approximately \$4,000 (\$100,000 in today's dollars). The original trustees included Chautauqua founders John Vincent and Lewis Miller.



Dave Shuff, Brenda Baird & Don Weaver

Reservation Information for the Chautauqua Season

Reservations for the Chautauqua Season may be made by any United Methodist or "Member" of the United Methodist House. "Members" are those who have financially contributed to the UM House in the past year. Reservations can only be made by calling (716) 357-4045 after 9 am on **the first Monday of October,**

10/5/15, (United Methodists and Members) or after 9 am on the first Tuesday (everyone). Reservations will be taken over the phone on a first come – first served basis. Messages for reservations will not be accepted.

Individuals may rent a room or the suite for only one week each season. A waiting list will be maintained in the event of cancellations. A week during the Season is from 3:00 pm, Saturday to 10:00 am the following Saturday. A reservation will be confirmed only if a \$200 deposit is received within two weeks. The balance is due in full before April 1. In the event of a cancellation, any funds paid will be returned only if the room can be re-rented.

Weekly Room Rental Rates – Chautauqua Season

Boehm Room \$675 (This room is slightly smaller) - 2 people in twin beds
 All other rooms \$775 (Four rooms) - 2 people in twin beds
 Wesley Suite \$1,350 (Two room suite) - 4 people in twin beds and 2 people in convertible chair/beds

Reservation Information for the Retreat Season (Off-Season)

Reservations for the retreat season are invited at any time up to 3 years in advance by calling (716) 357-4045. The retreat season is from Labor Day through May.

Retreat Season Rental Rates for the entire house (United Methodist groups)
 \$100 per day (day use only)
 \$425 per two-night stay

Retreat Season Rental Rates for the entire house (Non-Church groups)
 \$600 per two-night stay

Available Weekends in 2015

11/20-11/22, 11/27-11/29, 12/4- 12/6, 12/11-12/13, 12/18-12/20

Available Weekends in 2016

3/11-3/13, 3/18-3/20, 3/25-3/27, 4/1-4/3, 4/22-4/24, 11/18-11/20, 11/25-11/27, 12/2-12/4, 12/9-12/11
 12/16-12/18

Available Weekends in 2017

2/3-2/5, 3/3-3/5, 3/10-3/12, 3/17-3/19, 3/24-3/26, 3/31-4/2, All weekends in April, 5/5-5/7, 5/19-5/21
 11/17-11/19, 11/24-11/26, 12/1-12/3, 12/8-12/10, 12/15-12/17

Available Weekends In 2018

2/2-2/4, 2/9-3/11, 3/16-3/18, 3/23-3/25, 3/30-4/1, All weekends in April, 5/4-5/6, 5/18-5/20, 9/14-9/18
 11/9-11/11, 11/16-11/18, 12/7-12/9, 12/14-12/16

Available Weekdays, Tuesday – Thursday

Call to check availability

House Rules

Like all fine historic accommodations, the UM House is 100% non-smoking!
 Only “seeing eye” pets are allowed.
 As in all United Methodist facilities, alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

United Methodist House

P.O. Box 115 14 Pratt Avenue
Chautauqua, New York 14722



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Address Service Requested

The United Methodist House at Chautauqua

A year around center for retreats and renewal at Chautauqua offering a positive, radiant expression of United Methodist Christianity. Providing for spiritual refreshment, quiet renewal, friendship and fellowship!

The United Methodist House is centrally located at the heart of the Chautauqua experience. The United Methodist House is available year-round for church and family groups. Reservations for the Retreat Season (September – May) are taken at any time. Reservations for the Chautauqua Season are available starting on the first Monday of October of the previous year. For information and reservations call (716) 357-4045.

www.UMHouse.com UMHouse.blogspot.com www.facebook.com/UnitedMethodistHouse