
The Tower *Chimes*

Union Church of Pocantico Hills
555 Bedford Road
Pocantico Hills, New York 10591

The Rev. Dr. F. Paul DeHoff, Pastor

Janet Graham, Editor

June 2011

**The Board of Trustees
Invites you to join us
At a special Fellowship Hour
JUNE 26, 2011
Following the
11 a.m. Lord's Day Service
To celebrate
THOMAS ZACHACZ'S
Gifts and Graces
Employed on our behalf
At Union Church
1998 - 2011**

.....from the Pastor's desk

Last week you received an important and informative letter from Thomas Staudter, President of the Board of Trustees. It outlined Union Church's sources of financial support. The church's relationship to Historic Hudson Valley which relieves us of major capital expenses, and the Pastoral Endowment make it possible for Union Church to offer a ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Music one would normally find only in a much larger congregation. This exceptional ministry can continue as long as the members of the congregation take advantage of this advanced position by their generous and gracious giving. You are asked to give because of your commitment to the ministry of Union Church, "...as you are able".

The Spring Tag Sale grossed nearly \$16,000! At the end of the Sale on Saturday volunteers did an exceptional job of cleaning up and returning the Parish Hall to its normal configuration. Linens not sold were moved to their storage area; White Elephants not sold were boxed and returned to their

storage area. Sunday morning volunteers dropped men's and women's unsold clothing into bags. A large van load of clothing and linens was picked up the following Wednesday by The Sharing Community of Yonkers. Laura Caltagirone took unsold children's clothing on Saturday for Head Start. At 8 p.m. Saturday, an unexpected delivery of three cars loaded with shoes, clothing and White Elephants arrived! The following Wednesday a truck delivered furniture, clothing, books, white elephants, etc.

The Harvest Fair is scheduled for Oct. 14, 15, & 16! September 25 will be the last day to deliver any items for the Fair – IT IS FAR BETTER THAT YOU DELIVER THEM NOW! Clothing MUST come to us on hangers or gently folded and placed in boxes or bags. We cannot use clothing that has been thrown unfolded into bags or boxes. The same is true of linens. Thanks.

A Poulan 5.0 horsepower, push, lawnmower has just arrived – in excellent condition. Call Church Office for more information: 631-2069.

On May 15 Dan Vidra and Catharine Pollock became members of Union Church. Their children are Lily and Sebastian.

The All-Church Picnic will be held June 12, following the conclusion of the 11 a.m. Service. This event is sponsored by the Dinner Club. The sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall – you can indicate your plans to attend and to provide either a salad or desert. Able-bodied persons are needed at 10 a.m. the day of the picnic to set up the tables and chairs on the church lawn. Thanks for your willingness to help make this a success!

The Confirmation of the Baptismal Covenant will be celebrated June 12, the Day of Pentecost, at the 11 a.m. Service. Those confirming their Baptism are: Allegra DeLandri, Olivia DeLaurentis and Elizabeth Sobolik.

The John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Scholarship will be awarded June 19 at the 11 a.m. Service.

Thomas Zachacz will play his last Lord's Day Services at Union Church on June 26. We will honor and thank Tom for his faithful and skilled service here at a Fellowship Hour dedicated to him following the 11 a.m. Service.

Summer hours of worship will commence July 3.

They are 8:30 and 10 a.m.

We will resume the 9 & 11 a.m. schedule on September 9, 2011.

MISSING HAND TRUCK – A hand truck is a two wheeled vehicle used to move heavy objects from one place to another. The missing item is black with two hard rubber wheels. We desperately need it to be returned.

LAMPSTAND

COLLEGE SUCCESS FOR THE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

By John Loase

Pastor DeHoff asked me to write about my recent experience innovating College Statistics at Riverside High School, a school with a high proportion of economically disadvantaged students. Why and how did my Math partner, Professor Melvin Butts (a retired West Point Professor and Army officer) launch this innovation?

WHY?

For the past 27 years I have served as a Professor of Mathematics, first at Westchester Community College and for the past 9 years as Chair of Mathematics at Concordia College-NY. I have witnessed an epidemic failure of mathematics across the U.S., halving the college graduation rate in our nation. At one college, where I consulted and taught, the extraordinarily high math failure rate of the gifted economically disadvantaged students was one of the factors leading Middle States to threaten closing their college doors. At another college where I taught, the Director of Counseling criticized the math professors as responsible for cutting the graduation rate in half. A recent national study revealed that only 19% of students who require three or more remedial courses in college earn a four year degree within 8 years. Sadly, remediation and economic disadvantage go hand in hand. The poor stay poor, largely as a result of Math deficiencies. This is a national tragedy and disgrace. We had to do something to ameliorate this deplorable situation.

At Concordia College my colleagues and I feature a 90% success rate in Math. We trim topics, are very patient, and apply math to the real world in book readings, class discussions, even debates. My concept was to innovate

Concordia's College Statistics course at the senior high school level in economically disadvantaged high schools, empowering

economically disadvantaged students to escape the Remedial Math Trap in college. Our innovation worked. 100% of the nine students gained college credit; 90% earned A or B. My Dean of the College Sherry Fraser predicted 10 students would take the initial course. Nine did. She predicted 50 would sign up for the course next year. Fifty is the expected enrollment in our two planned Riverside High School courses next year. Our innovation worked.

HOW?

Innovating this course was breathtakingly difficult. Over the past three years, Prof. Butts and I gave five College Success seminars to entire classes of high school students in Harlem, Yonkers, and Mt Vernon. I asked Concordia's top college students to join us. They stole the show with their vitality, sincerity, and advice. My previous principal Joe Farmer, former Tight End for the NY Jets and Yonkers Superintendent of Schools, joined us with an inspirational speech about how he overcame disadvantage. We reached over 1000 students with a brutally direct message of the essential need for students to pursue academic excellence. We highlighted the 81% college failure rate of students who settle for mediocrity and remedial college incarceration. After the College Success seminars, I read each of the 1000+ evaluations. Over 99% of the students praised our session and requested that we visit all schools in the Northeast. Students want to hear the truth, before it is too late. Unfortunately, no principal scheduled us for a single seminar this spring, despite many broken promises and countless unreturned phone calls and e-mails from Prof. Butts and myself. Reversing this national tragedy requires more than good intentions. It requires iron resolve.

Riverside High School was PROVIDENTIAL. I was in despair by the lack of follow-up by principals from Harlem, Yonkers, and Mt. Vernon, who should have been our advocates for subsequent College Success seminars. No one seemed to care about sigfluence toward these students—significant, long-term, positive influence-COLLEGE SUCCESS. I was biking on the Croton-Aqueduct trail last spring. It was muddy. I had to get off and bike on the streets.

By serendipity I passed the beautiful campus of Riverside High School. With bike shorts and helmet in hand, I visited Riverside Assistant Principal Carol Baiocco and Principal Steven Murphy. They warmly accepted my offer to give their entire junior class our College Success seminar any time we could. The response to our seminar was enthusiastically positive, enabling the Concordia-Riverside partnership in the 2011 innovation of our model College Statistics course, which just concluded with 100% success

I write this for Tower Chimes at the request of our beloved Pastor Dr. Paul DeHoff. Tomorrow I write a piece for national publication. I will not put this last part in the national publication, but I believe our innovation was centered in Christian mission. Neither Prof. Butts or I derive stature or status from a high school innovation. Several donors, including Prof. Butts and me, lost money in sponsoring free tuition and books. Likewise, teaching has little status in the college arena. Publications and major grants are most colleges' "COIN OF THE REALM". Read the verse in Matthew 25 "The Final Judgment". Pastor DeHoff recommended this section of the Bible to read as a prelude to a seminar on College Success. Prof. Butts and I gave to church leaders May 21st. Matthew 25 reveals service to the poor as vital to Christian mission. Colleges need to become centered in mission honestly admitting that at present they largely serve as executioners to the economically disadvantaged. Colleges and high schools should become advocates and partners in

Supporting strategies that increase College Success. It is time to close and thank Pastor DeHoff for inspiring this piece. I am grateful for Pastor's guidance and delighted to be part of Union Church.

PREACHING SCHEDULE **FOR MARCH**

- June 05 – "*Wearing The Collar of Christ*"-
Matthew 11:25-30 (25, 30)
June 12 – "*The Resurrection Conspiracy*"-
John 20:19-23 (21, 23)

June 19 - "*God's Triple Claim On You*" –
Isaiah 43:1-12 (1)

June 26 – "*God Tells You Who You Are*" –
1 Corinthians 15:3-10a (10 a)

DINNER CLUB

We want to thank all of our Dinner Club members and friends who so generously gave of their time to make our May Plant Sale a great success. Special thanks to Fred and Ethel Angst, who chaired this event.

The Church Picnic, sponsored by the Dinner Club, will take place on **Sunday, June 12**. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall asking those who plan to attend to bring either a salad or a dessert. The club will supply the hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages.

Again, we ask all our members to volunteer for this activity. Each year this event has been very successful and provides an opportunity for fun and fellowship.

Dinner Club will not have another dinner meeting until November. 12.

Coming events:

Summer picnic at the Erdman's 8/21/11

Hayride 9/11/11

(More information will follow.)

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe summer.

SUMMERTIME

We look forward to seeing you during the busy summer months of July and August. If possible, we ask that, for budget purposes, you bring in or send your weekly/monthly offerings during this time.

We would like to remind everyone that our Nursery is open during the summer months. Childcare is available for infants, toddlers and young Sunday school children each week beginning at 10 a.m.

Summer is also a great time to host a Fellowship Hour. Our calendar indicates that most Sundays are still available.

The *Tower Chimes* returns in September. Please note that all articles are due by **August 21**. We would like to hear about any special travels or happenings that you and/or your family members have experienced over the summer months.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe summer.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- We were very saddened to hear about the death Laura Bunt's husband Charles. On **Friday, June 3, at 12 noon**, a funeral service will be held at Union Church in celebration of his life. We extend our condolences to Laura and their family.
- Our congratulations to Nora and Mark Anderson, who are the proud parents of a daughter, Megan Allie Anderson, born May 9.
- Kevin L. DeHoff, son of Stephen and Cindy, grandson of Rosalyn and Paul, was awarded a Ph.D. in Statistics by Rice University, Houston, TX. The title of his thesis is: "Live Cell Compartment Tracking: Object Tracking in Oscillating Intensity Images". This approach allows for faster and cheaper research.
- Your prayers are requested for Thomas DeHoff, son of Rosalyn and Paul, who will undergo Mitral Valve Repair by robotic surgery at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN on June 1.
- Beverly Richardson, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Richard Beyer, Pastor of Union Church, 1923-26, visited the church recently, according to the HHV

Docent Staff. She was accompanied by her granddaughter, Carol. Mrs. Richardson now lives in Springfield, VT. They had recently discovered a letter from John D. Rockefeller, Sr. inviting Mr. Beyer to accept the position of Pastor of Union Church.

IN MEMORIAM

Gifts to the Pastoral Ministry Endowment Fund have been received from the following:

Paul and Rosalyn DeHoff in memory of Charles Bunt;

Paul and Rosalyn DeHoff in memory of Anne Klami;

Elizabeth Coffman in memory of Patricia Gibbs;

June M. Dorer in memory of her husband, Rev. Robert F. Dorer.

We gratefully acknowledge and accept these donations.

Articles for the SEPTEMBER Tower Chimes are due by AUGUST 21.
