

Reaching UP

United
Presbyterian
Church

Farewell to Paulina Amegashie



Paulina cuts her Farewell Cake with Fellowship Chair Judie Iverson assisting!

On December 22, Paulina Amegashie introduced her visiting son John, currently serving in the United States Army, to us during the worship service. Paulina has been an active participant in our 2013 fellowship and was a welcome member of the UPC Chancel Choir each Sunday. She announced, much to everyone's sadness, that Sunday, December 29 would be her last Sunday with us as she is returning to Ghana, Africa.

The Worship Committee immediately set to work and, with approval of the Session, planned a Farewell for Paulina to take place on the 29th. A goodbye cake was ordered for the farewell.

During the December 29th worship service, Paulina was presented with one of the ironstone coasters commemorating UPC's 175th anniversary. She was also presented with UPC's blue Presbyterian Hymnal which was autographed by many UPC friends and members. The Worship Committee and the Session felt that these gifts would illustrate how much we appreciated the fellowship and time we've had with Paulina. It was a joyous celebration with many smiles and just a few tears. Adding to the joy was her son, John, being present to participate while on his holiday leave.



From left to right, John and Lisette Spir, Paulina, Allen Pease, John Amegashie, & Collen Swanson



Even more smiles were seen as Paulina cut her special cake. At that time, many UPCers took the opportunity to personally say farewell, shake Paulina's hand, or give a heart-felt hug. We certainly hope to see Paulina and her son, John in the future. We look forward to a visit!

Deacons Lou Malcomb (left) and Michelle Heitink wish Paulina bon voyage.

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Letter from the Pastor



Friends minister, Phillip Gulley tells about Pastor Sam in his book “Home to Harmony.” Pastor Sam was 38, married with two kids, and had moved home with his parents while he looked for a new job. He had left his previous church because of health problems – the church was sick of him and he was sick of the church. He didn’t intend to accept a new role as pastor of his hometown church. But the church’s former pastor had died unexpectedly and Pastor Sam felt pleased to speak God’s grace to his hometown congregation as their regular minister.

Sitting on the bench in front of the Harmony Rexall, Pastor Sam ate lunch, watched license plates, and wondered about his congregation. It occurred to him that he really did not know them at all. He knew he needed to know more about their needs and their thirst for grace in a grace-starved world. But he knew they were in for a great adventure together.

My thoughts exactly! It is exciting to be your Transitional Pastor! I am delighted to be here. Thank you for your kind and gracious welcome. In the coming weeks I want to do a lot of listening and learning. I want to know your needs and your hunger for grace in a grace-starved world.

During the coming months, we will celebrate and have fun remembering this incredible Family of God that is United Presbyterian Church. We will also face some difficult and daunting tasks. The work will not always be easy or fun but it must happen if we are to fully embrace the future that God has for UPC. A few of the things we will work to accomplish together are what we call the Developmental Tasks of the Interim Process. In simple language, the following items will serve as our over-arching job description. You will hear me talk about them over and over in the coming months. They include:

COMING TO TERMS WITH HISTORY by celebrating what has been good and bad.

DISCOVERING A NEW IDENTITY through the process of a Mission Study.

MANAGING SHIFTS OF LEADERSHIP by honoring past leaders and welcoming new Leadership

RENEWING DENOMINATIONAL LINKAGES by shoring our connection to our denomination. Also to look seriously at “Who are we as Presbyterians and What Does That Mean and What does it mean to be a “Connectional” Church?”

COMMITMENT TO NEW LEADERSHIP AND FUTURE – defining and readying UPC for new pastoral leadership.

Pastor Sam writes, “Sometimes I feel like I am sitting at God’s table and just finished one piece of blessing, and God smiles and says, “Here, have another.” That’s how I feel about being your pastor. It’s a special blessing to be here, and I look forward to facing the challenges and opportunities that are ahead.

Blessings

Pastor Mitch



February Birthdays and Anniversaries

3rd Nancy Truelove

8th Joe Stubenrauch

9th Reem Deeb

10th C. Allen Colwell

16th Betty Craig

23rd Jeremiah Hubbard

23rd Rohan Joseph

If you would like to make additions to the birthday and anniversary calendar please email: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Monthly Newsletter of United Presbyterian Church, 1701 E. Second Street—Bloomington, IN 47401. Editors: Membership Committee: Lou Malcomb, Jeremiah and Elaine Hubbard. Andy Hill is Webmaster. Submissions are accepted.

UKirk

UKirk is endeavoring to provide a venue for First Presbyterian Church and United Presbyterian Church to reach out to IU students.

How to Help with UKirk

Mentors—Students are always needing someone interested in hearing their story

Treats—UKirk would love to have homemade or store bought treats for their gatherings

Paper Products—Lunches at FPC could use napkins, plates, disposable silverware, and cups. If you have extra at home, please share!

Please email Elaine Hubbard at UPCBloominton@gmail.com, if you are interested in volunteering with UKirk in any capacity!

UPC Youth In Action

Thank You Youth Group:

The UPC Youth got a jump start on Spring cleaning! This MLK Day, the youth group made it a work day at the church. The Heitink, Like, and Worden families spent Monday morning doing general cleaning in the classrooms, organizing class supplies, and helping with some small jobs around the church. So hopefully you will notice that you have a youth songbook, sparkling windows, a returned bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, and you shouldn't have a short chair during Fellowship. Thanks to all who participated!

Souper Bowl of Caring:

February 2, the youth will be standing at the doors as you exit the sanctuary with pots collecting money for the Community Kitchen of Monroe County during the Souper Bowl of Caring campaign. This is an event around Super Bowl Sunday encouraging youth across the country to lead the fight against hunger and poverty in their local community.

Ice Skating:

February 9, all are invited to ice skate at Frank Southern from 3-5p. Last year we had more experienced skaters helping beginners, and adults and college students trying the balancing act for the first time never having been on skates before. A few were a little sore the next day but fun was had by all. Hope you can join us this year. Afterwards we will head down to Pizza Hut on Tapp Rd for dinner.

Donation for the Youth Needed:

A Blu-ray or DVD player donation would be appreciated for the youth program. Currently we have one audio visual cart that has to make the treacherous trip down in the elevator. We are putting together another cart that can be used on the first floor for adult Bible study, youth Sunday school, and maybe a future movie night. Please notify the office if you are able to make this donation.



Thankful...

Thank you for your support and prayers - and for contributing to a memorable time at Montreat. You have done so much for us this year, and blessed us!

UKIRK @ IU 2013-2014

How to Get Involved

Sunday Morning

Anytime

Volunteering with Sunday School

Do you love children? Are you excited about crafts? The Sunday School teachers would love to have you assist them. Please contact Karen Like KLike@earthlink.net for more information!

Fellowship Hour

Fellowship Hour is a time to share with one another over coffee and snacks. Everyone is invited to attend. It is held immediately following the Sunday worship service. Fellowship hours can be hosted by groups, families, or individuals. If you feel led to serve in this way, a signup sheet is in the fellowship hall.

Guest Performers

Throughout the year we have many special guest performances to enhance our worship experience. If you have a musical talent and are interested in sharing it with the congregation, please contact Jeeyoon Kim!

Video and Sound Systems

If you are interested in learning how to operate the sound system or help in taping the weekly worship sessions please contact Don Root at rootd@msn.com.

Offertory

Would you like to help in counting the offertory?: You do not need to sign up for a yearly commitment. Or if you are interested in collecting the offertory please let Bob Lorimer at lorimer9@gmail.com know.

Utilize Scrip

When Scrip cards are purchased UPC receives a percentage from the merchant. The Scrip table will only be set up on the last Sunday of the month to accept order forms and payments. The purchased cards will be available to be picked up the following Sunday!

Little Red Wagon

The little red wagon is waiting to be filled with canned goods and hygiene products for Monroe County United Ministries. For more information ask one of our Deacons..

UKirk

UKirk is in need of assistance with transportation, food donations, speakers, and mentors. If you are interested, please contact Elaine at NPlane01@aol.com

Friendly Visitors

Do you like socializing at Fellowship Hour? Our congregation has many individuals that would love to have someone come visit them and share the good news with them. Some are homebound, and others are in nursing homes. Please contact the church at Upcbloomington@gmail.com. if you are interested in spreading cheer with a visit..



Schedule of Involvement

Sunday School Teaching Schedule

Sunday School classroom are being staffed for both classes. The following is February's teaching schedule for Pre K—2nd grade: 2nd – Angie Notebaert, 9th – Aline Haddad, 16th - Stephanie Worden, 23rd – Melanie Mathis-McBride. February teaching schedule for 3rd– 6th grade: 2nd – Michelle Heitink, 9th – Leina Joseph, 16th – Linda Coggin, 23rd – Karen Like

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Served by the Moderator and Elders the first Sunday of each month & certain other occasions. Holy Communion will be served on February 2nd by: Stephanie Worden, Souheil Haddad, Bob Hammel, and Rachel Loop

Spiritual Growth Opportunities For Children

Youth Sunday School (Pre-school through sixth grade)
Following dismissal from worship

College Students and Young Adults

UKirk – Various activities check out www.iukirk.com

Adults and College Students

Video Series at 9 A.M. on Sundays in Anderson Parlor
Bible Study with Reverend Lorimer, 12:15 P.M. on Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall
Book study, participant led, 6 P.M. on Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall

Bible Studies:

The church offers three gatherings to explore faith and knowledge outside of the worship service. Please know these are not always bible classes, each is an interactive time to learn and share.

Flowers:

Flowers may be placed to honor the memory of a loved one or to mark special occasions such as anniversaries, births, birthdays, promotions, engagements, weddings, family reunions, etc. The cost is only \$25 including delivery. *At this point, only one of the worship services in February has a sponsor for Sanctuary Flowers and none of the services in March have flower sponsors.* The Worship Committee reminds everyone that the Flowers for Worship Sign-Up Sheet is posted on the bulletin board opposite the church office. Simply sign-up and the Worship Committee orders the floral arrangement, confirms delivery and makes sure it's noted in the Sunday Bulletin for that worship service. You may also choose to do your own ordering and selecting of flowers—just note this on the signup sheet.

Thank You, The Worship Committee

Souheil Haddad; Alejandra Haddad, Elaine Hubbard, Bill Huyler, Jeeyoon Kim & Allen Pease

Financial Report

We had a very good month in December, recovering fully the deficits of the previous three months. We took in a total of \$16,426.50 for the month and our expenses were \$9,054.32, giving us a positive cash flow of \$7,372.18 for December and a total positive cash flow of \$5,610.41 for the year.

INCOME					EXPENSES	GAIN/LOSS
	OFFERING	MISSION	FUND R.	TOTAL		
DEC.	14,220.50	502.00	1704.00	16,426.50	9,054.32	7,372.18
TO DATE	147,333.66	2,783.04	12,800.94	162,917.64	157,307.23	5,610.41

Lower expenses for the month was a factor, but we still wouldn't have finished the year in positive territory without the high level of donations in December. We want to thank all who answered the call and stepped forward with generous contributions in December. It is also noteworthy that we took in a total of \$382.00 for the Joy Offering. This money goes toward the Assistance Program of the PCUSA Board of Pensions and assistance to racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Please note that the figures above are preliminary and may change slightly when we are finished closing out for the year. Refer to the annual report for the final figures. –Don Root, Stewardship Chairman

Letter to the Editor

Dear friends & members of UPC,

I'm happy to be back at work in the UPC office. I was able to return on January 2nd and it feels good to be back! October, November and December could have been horrible months for me, but thanks to all of you, a terrible situation was made bearable. Thanks to Dr. Fadi Haddad my surgeries went rather well. I thank God for his skilled hands. In addition, Fadi's smiling face and strong encouragement was 50% of the recovery.

There are no words that can adequately describe what the people of UPC have done for me. It is wonderful and so rewarding. Thanks to the Deacons for the beautiful potted plant and for the in-person visits at the hospital. Thanks to everyone who sent flowers and plants. That was so re-assuring. And thanks to all from UPC who visited me at the hospital—it filled my heart with joy!

When I transferred to Bell Trace Health & Living Center, the kindness continued. I appreciated each and every in-person visit and the additional plants and flowers that were delivered as well as all the get-well cards that were sent. It brought tears to my eyes when Reverend Bob Lorimer, Deacon Sue Lorimer and Clerk of Session Don Root visited me and served Holy Communion. It was a worship experience that was greatly enhanced by the caring of the people of UPC.

Upon my homecoming, the kindness continued. The visits, the phone calls and more cards in addition to all that great home-made food did my heart good! UPC made the recovery so much easier. You have my gratitude.

I'm forever grateful to the entire fellowship of United Presbyterian Church as well as Elder Judie Iverson and the Fellowship Committee, Elder John Swanson and the Personnel Committee, Deacons Michelle Heitink and Sue Lorimer and the Board of Deacons, Clerk of Session Don Root, Dr. Souheil Haddad, Dr. Alejandra Haddad and Dr. Aline Hamati Haddad.

You've heard the term "...there are no coincidences!" I believe it was no coincidence that brought me to United Presbyterian some 13 years ago. It was God's plan (Jeremiah 29:11).

I'm alive because of the people of UPC.

I've been able to experience an authentic representation of Christ's love because of the people of UPC.

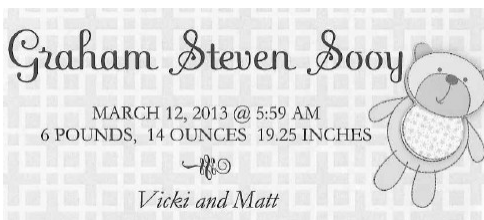
I know a true Christian family of believers because of the people of UPC.

Thank you in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior
Allen Pease

Birth Announcement

Christmas and New Year's greetings to UPC.

From the Sooy's



New Years Greetings

Dear members of United Presbyterian Church,
Thank you for your embracing warmth during the Christmas Eve church service. It was a joy to sing for you and do my small part in celebration of this special day.

I certainly wish many blessings to each member of the warm and friendly congregation!
May the New Year bring every joyful tidings to the lives of your congregation.

Gratefully,
Laura Beyer
Singer of "O Holy Night!"

Dear friends at UPC,
Christmas greetings from Pilsoo, Kyung Ae and Samuel in PA! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2014.— Love, the Kang family



Psalm 98:1

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Notes from the Fellowship Committee

Fellowship Hours . . .

I'll be out of town from February 4 until March 18th. Therefore, hosts for Fellowship Hour are needed as follows:

February 8, February 15, February 22, March 8, March 15

If you'd like to help, please see the sign-up sheet posted on the north wall of Fellowship Hall. Perhaps two or three could host together. I'll be happy to answer any questions—simply check with me during any Fellowship Hour before I leave.

Thank you, Judie Iverson, Fellowship Committee Chair

POV Assembly . . .

UPC is hosting the POV Assembly on Saturday, March 29th which means, as hosts, we'll be providing a continental breakfast and a hot lunch. The average Assembly attendance is 90.

The UPC Deacons help the Fellowship Committee with breakfast items. However, I would appreciate volunteers to prepare a few salads and a few desserts. If anyone is able to contribute one of these items, please sign-up on the sheet posted next to the Fellowship Hour Host sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you, Judie Iverson, Fellowship Committee Chair



What's Happening in February?

~ FEBRUARY 2014 ~

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Evening Schedule: 5:30pm Gamblers Anonymous 6:00pm Overeaters Anonymous 8:00 pm – AA						1 11am Overeaters Anonymous
2 Deacon's Sunday 9am Bible Study 9am choir and VWC Choir practice 10am Worship and Communion 11am Fellowship	3	4 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study	5 8pm Overeaters Anonymous	6 6:30pm AA Woman's Group 8pm AA Campus Group	7 11:45am – Men's Lunch 5:30pm – AA Women's Beginners Meeting 7:00pm – Worship service Temple Shir Tikvah	8 11am Overeaters Anonymous
9 9am Bible Study 9am choir and VWC Choir practice 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	10 5:15 Kiwanis	11 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study	12 8pm Overeaters Anonymous	13 6:30pm AA Woman's Group 8pm AA Campus Group	14 11:45am – Men's Lunch 5:30pm – AA Women's Beginners Meeting 7:00pm – Worship service Temple Shir Tikvah	15 11am Overeaters Anonymous
16 9am Bible Study 9am choir and VWC Choir practice 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	17	18 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study 7pm Session	19 8pm Overeaters Anonymous	20 6:30pm AA Woman's Group 8pm AA Campus Group	21 11:45am – Men's Lunch 5:30pm – AA Women's Beginners Meeting 7:00pm – Worship service Temple Shir Tikvah	22 11am Overeaters Anonymous
23 9am Bible Study 9am choir and VWC Choir practice 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	24	25 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study 7pm Session	26 8pm Overeaters Anonymous	27 6:30pm AA Woman's Group 8pm AA Campus Group	28 11:45am – Men's Lunch 5:30pm – AA Women's Beginners Meeting 7:00pm – Worship service Temple Shir Tikvah	

Liturgists Needed: The Worship Committee is currently organizing liturgists for each worship service in 2014. We're happy to announce that over twenty friends and members have already volunteered to serve as liturgist for services from now through June. Though, more volunteers are needed. Additionally, in order to continue an Easter Sunrise Service tradition at UPC, we need volunteers to speak the liturgy in their native tongues. Past years have been in: Arabic, Dutch, English, German, Korean, Mandarin and Spanish. If interested in being a liturgist for a Sunday service or for the Easter Sunrise Service, please contact any Worship Committee member to sign up. Thank You, The Worship Committee: Souheil Haddad; Alejandra Haddad, Elaine Hubbard, Bill Huyler, Jeeyoon Kim & Allen Pease.

Additions to Reaching U.P. Do you have something the congregation should know about? Is there something you would like to share? Please email any submission for Reaching U.P. to upcbloomington@gmail.com, before the 15th of each month.