

SP&SA UPDATE

April 2013

Finding the Keys

K Karpen

"I died, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I hold the keys to death and hell..."

Revelation 1:18

Our daughter Jessie came home from school the other day and told us she lost her keys and couldn't open her locker.

"My health teacher had to bring out these huge bolt cutters and cut the lock off my locker!" she said.

"That's too bad." I said.

"Yeah." She said. "But then I found my keys."

"Where were they?"

"In my locker!"

I suppose most of us hold the keys to the things that could free us. But we hold them in places we can't quite get to. Deep in ourselves. There they are, so near, but so completely out of reach. And so we remain stuck. Stuck in our habits, stuck in our way of behaving, stuck in our big or small addictions, stuck in our way of thinking. Stuck in ourselves!

Jean-Paul Sartre was wrong: hell isn't other people; hell is ourselves. Being stuck in ourselves and not finding an exit. Sometimes, anyway.

The good news of Easter is that we don't have to stay stuck in ourselves. There really is a power beyond ourselves capable of getting us beyond ourselves. Thank God!

Of course, it's not all that easy, even with some divine assistance.

We are pretty good at keeping ourselves locked into patterns, even the ones we say we want to be free of.

The gospel writer Luke seems to know this. He doesn't end his book with the story of the resurrection, because even after the resurrection, the followers of Jesus are caught up in the same

ways of thinking. Stuck in themselves! So he goes on to tell another story: of the risen Christ finding two disciples on the road to Emmaus, a village not far from Jerusalem. At first they don't recognize him. Only after he stays with them, eats with them, explains scripture to them, do they figure out who he is. And they are freed from themselves!

EASTER AT SPSA

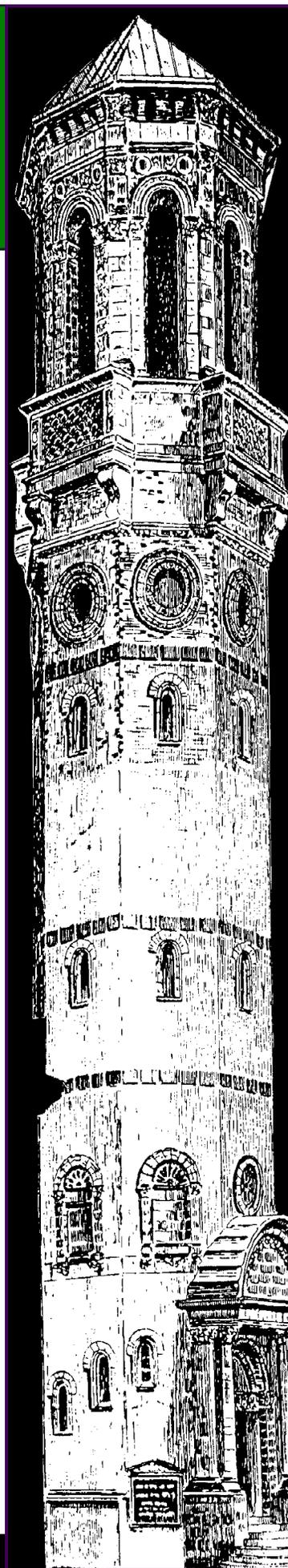
Thursday, March 28 HOLY THURSDAY
6:30 pm. Light meal and service, chapel

Friday, March 29 GOOD FRIDAY
6:00 pm. CrossWalk. Meet at Times Sq(43rd)
8:30 pm. Good Friday Service, sanctuary

Sunday, March 31 EASTER!
6:30 am. Sunrise Service in Central Park
11:00 am. Celebration of the Resurrection

Sunday, April 7 COMMUNION
11:00 am. Commemoration of the apostles' Emmaus road encounter with Jesus, coming to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

❖ www.stpaulandstandrew.org ❖



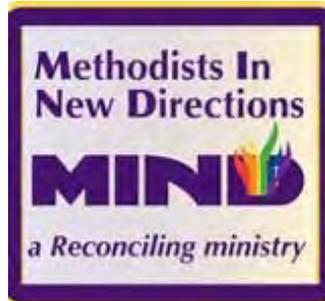
MISSION, CHURCH & SOCIETY

MIND: TIME TO SUPPORT THIS VITAL MINISTRY

By Charlotte Patton

It's that time again to renew your MIND (Methodists in New Directions) membership, or to join if you haven't before.

The dues are \$15 (more if you can, less if you need). This is some of the most important social justice work that is going on in our church today, making the church inclusive of all, including GLBTQ persons. Please contact Charlotte Patton if you haven't already renewed or if you'd like to join MIND so that this important work can continue.



Also, we'd love to have you join us at the MIND Spring Organizing Meeting, Sun., April 14 at 3 p.m. at Memorial UMC in White Plains. We will be gathering in fellowship, planning our annual conference witness, talking about next steps in our path-breaking "We do! Methodists Living Marriage Equality" project, and hearing updates on other MIND initiatives. Hope to see you there!

YOUNG ADULTS:

JOIN US FOR LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP!

By Bridget Cabrera

Come join the young adults this month for lunch on April 21st and be sure to look for an announcement in your inbox for a possible upcoming potluck. If you do not currently receive the young adult emails and would like to be added to the list, please email me with your request.



MISSION, CHURCH & SOCIETY

FIGHTING HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS

By June Quarfordt

MCS would like to encourage everyone to see "A Place at the Table," a wonderful film addressing the issue of hunger in the U.S. It's in theaters and also available on iTunes and on demand. There is also a great web site where you can find out how to get involved. www.takepart.com/place-at-the-table

One way to help is to join this year's Crop Walk, coming up on May 19. We want all kids, adults, families, and even dogs, to get excited about walking to ensure that EVERYONE has a place at the table. Start getting sponsors NOW! See our table at Coffee Hour.

Finally, MCS urges each of you to log on to The Interfaith Assembly on Homeless and Housing website (www.iahh.org). We support this group as a congregation and it would be wonderful if 100% of us with computer access signed in and participated in this important group. IAHH provides many ways to serve those less

fortunate in our community. Often it is just signing a petition or calling a legislator. You can see IAHH vans stopping at night on our corner (West End Ave.) and distributing sandwiches to the hungry.



Talent Show 2013

We are working hard on our Youth Group Talent Show on **April 13th** (4 p.m., and at 7 p.m. with auction), practicing songs and dance moves. All proceeds go to the Mission Trip in August.

If you are interested in helping or donating something special for our auction please contact Jessie Floyd.



The Power of Sisterhood

By Christie House, President

By Christie House

Join UMW for the April 14 meeting, which will be on “Seeing the Power of Sisterhood,” and led by June Quarfordt and Betty Ann Driver.

On May 26, Memorial Day weekend, United Methodist Women will be mounting a sidewalk sale outside in conjunction with the Street Fair that Sunday afternoon. We hope to take advantage of the extra street traffic.

Stay tuned for news about the second half of the Haiti study, which will focus on Haiti’s recent history and its progress after the 2010 earthquake. We hope to have someone from UMCOR Haiti to help us understand the situation in Haiti today.



Below: Betty Kazadi Musau speaks about violence and its impact on women and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



MEMBERSHIP AT SPSA:

JUMP IN! With Whatever!

By Dan Freda

What does it mean to be a member of SPSA?

I’d say the short answer is that our members are involved. SPSA encourages us to show ourselves, to jump in, and to let it all hang out. And when we jump in, SPSA blossoms into the welcoming Christian community we’ve come to know and be proud of.

We sometimes call ourselves the “Church of Why Not?” So share your talent, join a group, or start one. We need you to jump in. Bible study, book group, bowling, bird watching, belly dancing, beekeeping, baking, biking, billiards, bridge ... and that’s just some of the B’s.

OK, I’ll jump in: I’d like to find some **brass musicians** to play Christmas carols on 86th and WEA this December. I play trombone. There’s practice space in my building on 91st Street. There, I’ve said it. It’s out! Contact me if this is something you also want to do.

What’s your passion? What do you like to do? Odds are there are people in our community that will want to do it with you. Let us know. We’ll help you get started—just email me.

We thrive as a community because we participate as individuals.

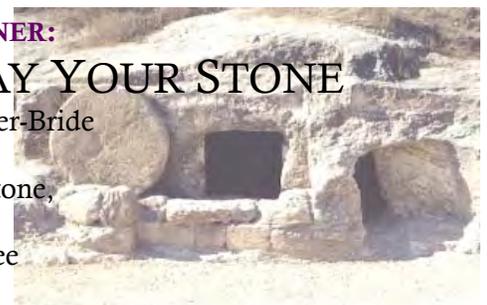
See you at coffee hour!

Dan Freda

SPIRITUAL CORNER:

ROLL AWAY YOUR STONE

By Barbara Wheeler-Bride



“Roll away your stone,
I’ll roll away mine
Together we can see
what we will find
Don’t leave me alone at this time
For I am afraid of what I will discover inside.”
– Mumford & Sons, “Roll Away Your Stone”

I don’t know if Mumford & Sons were thinking about the resurrection when they wrote the lyrics to “Roll Away Your Stone,” but I like the way it personalizes the idea of uncovering the unknown while escorted by God’s grace. When the stone is rolled away on Easter, Jesus is gone! But he soon reappears -- the risen Christ -- to his friends and disciples. Their fear and sadness turns to joy!

How many times are we scared about what we’ll find when we roll away the stone? Will God want something more of us? A more intentional prayer life? To stop judging others? A bigger commitment to seeing peace and justice become a reality in our world? Well, whatever we find when we roll away the stone, we can be assured that the risen Christ will meet us there, and walk with us as we continue to grow in faith.

If you’d like to contribute to the Spiritual Corner contact me.

REFLECTIONS ON THE ECUADOREAN YOUTH MISSION TRIP

By Annah Bosco

Day 1 of our trip, the courtyard was covered in mounds of dirt. There was a pile of wood, of steel supports and of trash. By the end of the day all three of those piles were cleaned up. The main job was clearing the dirt. People stayed in the courtyard with shovels, putting the dirt into wheelbarrows.

At first it was easy because it was all loose dirt piles. Then, it got harder because we had to dig into the actual dirt. We made sure it was nice and level. The wheelbarrows with dirt were taken down the road and used to fill holes. After the holes in the road were filled, we put the remaining dirt on the side of the road to prevent erosion. Pastor Jessica and Elizabeth (Bishop Silvio Cevallos' Secretary) directed that effort. In the courtyard, we worked in groups to make sure everything got done. Some people used pick axes and hammers and picks to flatten out a stone wall. All of the work was really noticeable by the end of the day, which was awesome.

I got a tan the first day! Unfortunately, I have awkward work glove tan lines now. My face was even a little red, but I didn't burn like most people. We had lunch at the church, made by the Bishop's wife and members of the church. Lunch was beef stew, rice, corn, avocado, fried plantain and hominy porridge for dessert. I was very grateful. We had both breakfast (French toast) and dinner (chicken, rice, potato and tomato) at the hotel. After dinner we hung out, some people did homework and I wrote postcards to friends and family as well as played chess with Akasha. Overall, it was a great start and set the tone for the

entire rest of the week.

Going to Ecuador was my first time outside of the country. I was nervous for that, but insanely excited to get to go. I've been on mission trips before, and had a picture



in my mind of what to expect. Many of the ideas I had came true, but many things didn't. I mentally prepared myself for a group of kids that spent the first half of the trip fighting and then came together – but we bonded instantly. I prepared myself for girls that didn't want to work – but everyone tried as hard as they could. I prepared myself to not like the food – but it was amazing, especially the fresh juices. These things were not what I had expected; they were better. The entire trip was not what I had expected; it took on its own power and meaning without me realizing it.

We spent every morning working to help build a playground. All the work was hard manual labor - first we had to level the ground by shoveling the dirt out of the ground and then wheelbarrowing it down a hill to fill gaps in the road. Then, we had to spread 4 large rock piles around the courtyard so that they were level. Also, we had to mix large quantities of concrete to help build the wall around the courtyard. Finally, a team had to build a trench in front of the church. All of these jobs were hard work, in the nice warm sun, and everybody worked together to get them done! Even though by lunchtime we were all exhausted, nobody complained. In the afternoons, some people continued to work while others ran a short VBS with the kids of the church. All the work we were doing, no matter what it was, had the idea of being a community. We were working in the community, and with a

few members of it, to help them get something they wouldn't have gotten otherwise. The smiles on the kids' faces when we played with them reflected the happiness we were all feeling on the inside at getting to help.

For me, this trip built more than just muscle and callouses. It built a sense of community and acceptance that is so often lost in today's world of social media - where you are always watching what you are doing to impress people who see it online. The trip also built up my faith; every morning and evening we did devotions, and the simple trust in God of everybody on the trip and the fact that we had to do a prayer circle before and after work every day helped me to realize just how strong the power of prayer is - something that we often don't notice in the non-Christian world of our everyday lives.

This trip to Ecuador was just truly amazing, and I look forward to getting to share more about it with the members of the church in a presentation after Easter.

Our first day in Ecuador, in the morning, we went to Iglesia Evangelica Metodista Unida "El Nazareno," our host church. We were greeted with choruses of "Buenos dias" and "Bienvenidos" ringing in the air accompanied with a surplus of smiles, handshakes, and hugs. During the service I was pleasantly surprised at how much of my Spanish from previous years of Spanish classes came back to me. There were some songs we sang in church that most of us recognized from the English version. It was interesting to now sing them in Spanish. Pastor Oscar and Bishop Cevallos kept repeating that although we speak different languages, we still speak the same language, the language of Jesus Christ; the language of love.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: WHAT MAKES US A CHRISTIAN?

By Julie Nelson

What makes us a Christian? Are we born a Christian? Do we become Christians by going to church every week? Or is it something else?

This month in Sunday school we are going to be discussing the early stories of Paul. They show us that we are Christians by CHOOSING to be Christians. Sometimes it's clear and dramatic, but most of the time we are offered many small opportunities to be a Christian. Paul went to places that were out of the ordinary to spread the message of Christian love. And every morning when he woke up in a land far from home he chose to be a Christian even if it was hard.

How can we be Christians every day? Can we be Christians at recess? In the grocery store? When is the last time that you did something following Jesus' example at school? All kids are invited to join us at Sunday School!

Vacation Bible School is
Aug 26 to 30th, 9 am to 3 pm.
Save the Date!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



MEET THE ARTIST!



We're having an opening reception Sunday **April 21** at 5 p.m. for Angelo Romano, who created all the amazing artwork now beautifying our space. The artist, who was born in Madrid, Spain and lives on the Upper West Side, will be on hand to discuss his work. He has also donated some pieces for us to sell as a fundraiser that evening for SPSA so please plan to attend and bring lots of friends. Watch for more details on the website and in the bulletin.



Letting Faith Grow

By Annah Heckman (CYM)

The weekend of March 15-17 the SPSA youth group attended IGNITE at Quinipet along with many other UMC youth groups from the tri-state area. Our very own Hannah Reasoner planned this weekend-long event with the Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM).

The weekend consisted of various workshops and worships that exposed us to other Christian points of view and allowed us to grow in our own faith. We spent time with people who both shared and disagreed with the points of view of our church. We were exposed to different types of worship and ways of expressing faith. Instead of these changes causing us as a youth group to become defensive or rude we embraced them. Listening

to other Christians and their ways of expressing faith allowed us to develop and grow our own views on faith.



We know that our community is special and unique, so it was nice to experience something new and have the ability to question. New experiences and questioning, especially in a place as beautiful as Quinipet, doesn't challenge faith, but instead allows faith to grow. It was a wonderful way to cap off our Lent journey as we head into Easter.



Now we look forward to the Youth Talent show on **April 13** where yours truly will be MC-ing again this year! We hope to see you there and ask for your support as we raise funds for this year's mission trip to help with Hurricane Recovery Efforts!



CAMPUS MINISTRY:

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE TO SPREAD THE WORD

By Donnalie Nelson

The campus ministry is looking into all avenues for reaching out to the student body. One of our focuses right now is reaching out on social networking. We have created a Facebook page that will connect the campus ministry to the SPSA church family, so like "CU Methodist Campus Ministries! We are in collaboration with the World Student Christian Federation and hoping this will fuel more opportunities for more students to practice ministry in a way that appeals to them.

The final project right now is beginning to focus on sustainability of the ministry. We want to make sure that all events and meetings are documented and accessible for students in the following semesters.

I also look forward to preaching next month at SPSA on Sunday April 21st. All in all, as the end of the year approaches, I think we are setting things up well to continue to grow this ministry to meet the spiritual needs of students.





April 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 Palm Sunday 10:40 Blessing of the Palms/Donkey 11 Worship Siobhan preaching 1 Youth Group 6 Potluck at the Parsonage!	25 8:30 The Gathering	26 6:30 Pilates 7:30 Knitting	27 NO Tutoring (schools closed)	28 Maundy Thursday 6:30 Celebration of the Last Supper	29 Good Friday 6 CrossWalk from Times Square 8:30 Worship	30 2 Clean and Decorate 4 Choir
31 EASTER! 6:30 Easter Sunrise at Belvedere 9:30 Choir 11 Celebration of the Resurrection	April 1 Communications	2 8:30 Prayer Circle (conference call)	3 6 Homework Help	4 6 Crop Walk Mtg	5 Women's Retreat	6 Women's Retreat
7 COMMUNION 10 Choir 11 Worship K Preaching 12:15 Coffee Hour 1 Youth Group	8 7 Trustees	9 2 Staff meeting 4 Open Youth Rm 6:30 Pilates 7:30 Knitting 7:30 Staff-Parish	10 6 Homework Help	11 6:30 WSCAH Board	12	13 Youth Talent Show
14 10 Choir 11 Worship K Preaching 1 Youth Group; 1 United Meth. Women 3 MIND Meeting, White Plains	15	16 2 Staff meeting 4 Open Youth Rm 6:30 Pilates 7:30 Knitting	17 6 Homework Help	18 6:30 Finance Comm	19	20
21 10 Choir 11 Worship Donnalie Preaching 12:45 Young Adult Brunch 1 Youth Group 5 Reception for Artist	22	23 2 Staff meeting 4 Open Youth Rm 6:30 Pilates 7:30 Knitting 7:30 Church Council	24 6 Homework Help	25	26	27
28 10 Choir 11 Worship K Preaching 1 Youth Group 6 "Mothers of Bedford" film	29	30 2 Staff meeting 4 Open Youth Rm 6:30 Pilates 7:30 Knitting	May 1 May Day! 6 Homework Help	2	3 Spring Retreat Safe the Date!	4 Spring Retreat

Shelter: Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:00; AA Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00; Food Pantry, Monday 8:00 to 6:30, Wednesday to Friday 8:00 to 3:00.

Women's Retreat

April 5-7

Kirkwood House
Olmstead Center

Cost: \$150, scholarships avail.

Maundy Thursday

Commemoration of the

Last Supper

March 28, 6:30 pm

In the Sanctuary.

Light supper will be served.

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 29

6:00 PM WALK WITH THE CROSS
FROM TIMES SQUARE (43RD) TO SPSA

8:30 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS
IN THE SANCTUARY

SPSA Prayer Circle. Please join us for prayer every other Tuesday night at 8:30 pm on a telephone conference call. To take part, call 605-477-3000 and dial 504927# when prompted. The next date is April 2nd. To request prayers for yourself and others, please contact Martha Patton. The Prayer Circle will meet in the SPSA parlor every 4th Sunday at 12:30 pm.

MEMBERSHIP: COFFEE HOUR

Have you signed up to host yet? see the sign-up sheet on the hallway bulletin board.

Our staff will set up tables and make the coffee for you!

EASTER!

6:30 am Sunrise Service at Belvedere
Castle, Central Park (meet at 6:15 at 81st and CPW)
11:00 am Celebration of the Resurrection



Join Us!

Check Out Our Website!
www.stpaulandstandrew.org
Hear podcasts of sermons!

Spring Getaway Retreat
Quinipet
Shelter Island, NY
May 3-5

EASTER!

6:30 am Sunrise Service at Belvedere Castle,
Central Park (meet at 6:15 at 81st and CPW)
11:00 am Celebration of the Resurrection

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Palm Sunday!

Photos by Emily Peck-McClain & Kathy Burkett