



## Brewerton United Methodist Church Weekly Update, February 27, 2011

Greetings!

This has been the type of week that reminds me of two things:

1) The life of a pastor is truly a ministry of interruptions. You just never know when God is going to interrupt that pre-prepared Schedule of yours and all of those well-laid plans for, well, other plans. After all, it is HIS schedule that counts, and, as anyone pursuing His will can attest, when God changes your plans, you roll with it. The funeral arrangements for our dear sister Shirley Roberts and the changes in our Child Care program (and a few other minor schedule changes) are just the kind of thing that ministry is made of. We still have to make plans, mind you, but flexibility is the name of the game. When God says take a left instead of a right, that is not a suggestion or an option, but where you are headed next. And,

2) That I work with as fine a group of people as exist in any church anywhere. Kudos to all who have had their schedules changed, upended, amended, etc and still managed to discharge their mission and ministries with gusto. Meals were prepared and delivered, worship was planned, finances were attended to, rides were given, and countless extra jobs and efforts were put out in a week that held little room for error.

There are often times when I, as your Pastor, am exceedingly pleased and proud of my congregation. This past week would be one of them. Ministry is not done in a vacuum, nor should it be. And we are, biblically speaking, all ministers. But, having experienced a number of other churches I know that the facts do not always get in the way of reality. So, to my flock - well done indeed! Keep up the great work for God in our community!

Here are some things that are going on around Church:

1) This Sunday, February 27th the United Methodist Women will be presenting a **"Soup for Local Missions"** fundraising event. Delicious soups and breads will be available for sale, with the proceeds going to help the Roberts Family. Stay and have a bowl after church and then pick up another one to take home for later! The offering that was scheduled to be taken during the worship celebration has been postponed at this time.

2) **Personnel Notice** - Michele Sidman, our acting Director of the child care program here at church has resigned, effective this past Tuesday. Michele cited stress related concerns about her health and a desire to move on to other opportunities as significant reasons for the move. She expressed sadness at leaving but wishes the program well going into the future. The rest of the staff remains in place, the program is running as it always has, and a search for someone to take Michele's place is in process. The SPRC is conducting that search and the Finance Team has stepped in and is working on the Financial aspects of the program. We are blessed to have a solid staff in place at the program and look forward to what the future holds for this vital community service.

3) Tuesday evening was the **Memorial Service for Shirley Roberts**. Family and Friends gathered at the New Comers Funeral Home in North Syracuse to celebrate the life of Shirley, as well as support each other in our grief. Shirley was a dedicated member of our church family and a part of the Trustees committee. She will be greatly missed. Please continue to pray for Dick and the rest of the family as they work through the changes that accompany the "going home" of one of God's Children. The family wishes to thank the church for their prayers and support, as well as the outpouring of love towards them at this difficult time.

3a) The process for the **Sale of the Parsonage** is moving along and gaining speed. The Trustees, led by Tom Davies (who has been the point person through this long process) have done a great job at staying the course and pushing the process through the many twists and turns that needed to be navigated. They negotiated the best possible deal available during what is arguably the worst real estate and credit markets in decades while working within the parameters given to them by the Charge Conferences last spring and fall. More information will be forthcoming when the process is finished.

4) **Mission Opportunity:** A local Mission Team is heading to the **Redbird Mission in Kentucky** this July to do some repair work both at the mission and in the surrounding areas. The team still has a few openings. The cost is \$ 475 per person (some assistance may be available in this area) and training will be given in electrical and plumbing skills, although the work is not limited to those areas. Anyone interested in joining this team and working in Appalachian Kentucky for a Methodist Mission may contact Pastor Roger for more details. The deadline on joining the group is March 1, 2011.

9) **All bulletin announcements should** go directly to Lois Groginski, our dedicated and excellent bulletin producer/editor. Unless she receives them, they will not make it into the bulletin. Please try to get bulletin items to her by Wednesday for inclusion the following Sunday. Items submitted later than that may not make the bulletin that week.

10) **Check out our revised, revamped and reinvigorated church website!!** Kudos to the Communications and Marketing Team, as well as Randy Ward for their hard work on this project. Make sure you go to [Brewertonumc.com](http://Brewertonumc.com) and look at all the new features and all of the functional improvements they have made! Then tell your friends about it!

11) **Have I missed anything?** Feel free to drop me a line with items that should be a part of OUR weekly update. Suggestions, corrections and other (constructive) comments may be emailed to me at [Garred98@aol.com](mailto:Garred98@aol.com). Please have it to me by Sunday morning for inclusion in the next week's update.

See you at Church, and around the Kingdom!

Pastor Roger, Lead Servant, teacher and co-sojourner