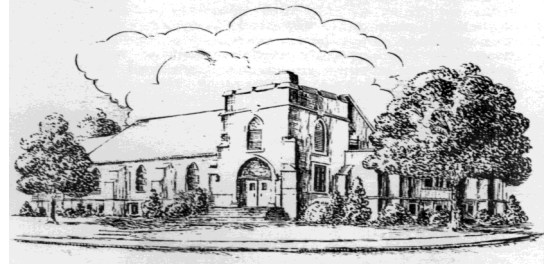


# Circuit Writer November 2011

Eastern Parkway UMC  
943 Palmer Avenue  
Schenectady, NY 12309

*"On a journey  
together."*



## Kinney's Korner

On November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm we will be celebrating our first Church Conference together! To some this may have become rather routine and even a bit mundane. I prefer to see it as an opportunity for all of the church to come together and share what their hopes and dreams are for the ministries here at Eastern Parkway. If we had wanted only a few ideas and limited input this annual meeting would have been called as a Charge Conference which by Discipline only the Church Council, the Trustees, and the Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee could vote in. A Church Conference is open to all the members of the church to vote and all the friends of the church to have voice.

Too often this annual gathering has been seen as an Administrative duty that has to be done to set the salaries of the staff and to receive the necessary reports. I would hope we could begin to share some of the ideas and some of the dreams that the Ministry Fair have brought to the front of our thinking and planning. It is not only important but vital that we have as many different voices and as many different perspectives represented and heard so we can prayerfully consider where God is calling us as individuals and as one of the bodies of Christ. It is my hope that we have some special time where we can share and discuss the ministries here.

Along the same lines I am glad to share that we have a Stewardship team who will be sharing with this congregation their vision of stewardship. It is so much more than an annual finance fund drive. To paraphrase some of their first discuss, Stewardship is showing appreciation to God for all the gifts we have. I think we are beginning an exciting and challenging time together. If you would like to become a part of this team please keep your eyes open for the announcement of their next meeting.

The Worship Team is also starting to get their feet under them as we examine worship and what it is and what it might become. This team is looking for young and not so young ideas and expressions so please consider this an invitation to join us. The next meeting will be announced.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> a group journeyed from here to a training on Communicating in the Social Media. We will be forming a communications team in January to examine and explore how we can better communicate to all the people in our church and more of the people in our community.

[cont'd]



## Open hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.

Some of what's  
inside...

A Letter from Japan P. 3

Outreach P. 4

Lay participation P. 5

*"As a Reconciling Congregation, EPUMC affirms the sacred worth of persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and welcomes them into full participation in the fellowship, membership, ministries, and leadership of the congregation."*

In closing I would like to thank Rev. David Smith for heading up our efforts to assist those hurt by Irene. It is gratifying to see a group of people coming together for the sole purpose of ministering in different ways to the people who need assistance the most. We are looking to form a team who might take a week this summer to travel to a destination yet to be named to help people living below the poverty level. This assistance will come in the form of building and repairing. These skills are not hard to learn and we have some very skilled people willing to teach and share. I hope you all have a blessed and filled Thanksgiving and may God continue to bless your family and our family of Eastern Parkway.

See You in Church!

*Pastor Alan*

## **SICM Update**

### Harvest for the Pantry Dinner

Harvest for the Pantry is a dinner to raise funds for the S.I.C.M. Emergency Food Pantry. This year's dinner will be held on Sunday, November 6, from 4-7PM at First Reformed Church of Scotia. The dinner includes a homemade chicken dinner, as well as a silent auction. Dinner tickets are \$25 and are eligible for GE gift matching. Please contact Cheryl Gerstler at 372-2561 or [cherylgerstler@yahoo.com](mailto:cherylgerstler@yahoo.com) for tickets.

### The SICM Food Program needs volunteers! Your help is needed!

Various jobs are available, but the greatest need is for volunteers to lift and move food. For more information, contact Gail at 346-4445.

Book Collection In addition to collecting food items, we are also continuing to collect gently used children's books to donate to SICM. These books can then be added to meals. You are welcome to drop off your books in the box located next to the SICM Food donation basket, which is near the sign-up sheets upstairs. Thank you to all those who have continued to donate already!

## **Missions Outreach Opportunity**

We will be organizing a group of volunteers to go to the Northeast Regional Food Bank warehouse (near the airport) on Saturday, November 19 from 1-3pm. There will be a sign up sheet at the Missions Fair. If you have questions or need more info, please contact Trish Roeser, 372-2273 or [patriciaroeser2@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaroeser2@gmail.com)

## **Home Furnishing Program**

*In case you haven't heard...*

With the help of SICM summer interns and other volunteers, we served a record number of clients this summer, caught up on our backlog of referrals, and cleared out a lot of space in our warehouse.

*So yes, we are back in business, accepting donations!*

*Our biggest furniture need: dressers*

*Desperately needed housewares: cutlery and towels*

*Teams also desperately needed for truck runs.*

*Driver and 2 able-bodied helpers per team*

*Willing to work three-hour shifts*

*Flexible times*

*We can't pick-up/deliver without your help!*

*Please volunteer if you are able.*

Call 346-2444 or email [homefurninc@aol.com](mailto:homefurninc@aol.com)

and

Check out our website: [schenectadyhomefurnishings.org](http://schenectadyhomefurnishings.org)

*Thanks!*

*Translation by Trish Roeser of a letter from Japan in appreciation of pictures sent by our children and youth .  
Letter received October 1, 2011*

## To Everyone: A Word of Thanks

I hope that you are all in the calming presence of the Lord Jesus . We thank you for the lovely pictures with your words of encouragement which you sent to us (earlier this spring). The great earthquake, subsequent tsunami, radiation, etc... have one after another struck us with many disasters. And in the midst of our difficulties and worries, your pictures and words encouraged us and helped us regain our strength and health.

It has been four months since the disasters began and even though we are only 43 kilometers (26 miles) from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant, with God's blessing we are all well and living each day fully. On March 11th, we experienced a rather strong 5 minute shake, followed by 2 hours on March 15th when we were exposed to 24 u sv - 400 times the safe limit of radiation. This was followed by more aftershocks on April 11-12, and also in July registering 5 on the Richter scale. We continue to have many aftershocks on a regular basis.

Also, now we are being informed that the amount of cesium and strontium that we have been exposed to from the radiation will take 30 years to dissipate to half its strength. We worry about the children and the women of child bearing years and how all this exposure will affect their health and future lives. Please pray for the people of Fukushima that we may once again see smiles and laughing faces.

Please allow me to send with this letter a poster with letters of thanks written by our Sunday School children using the summer "Tanabata" (star) Festival theme.

2011 August 3 Rev. Shuji Tsuchiya, Taira Baptist Church, Iwaki City, Fukushima, Japan

(The poster will be hung in the Education wing at EPUMC later in October. The children's letters have already been translated on the poster and are under their original letters. Please take time to read them.)

## Interfaith Events

Interfaith Community of Schenectady will host its November dinner meeting on Wednesday, November 9 at the Islamic Center of the Capital District, 21 Lansing Road N, Schenectady. Dinner is at 6:30pm and is \$12, pay at the door. Program is at 7:30pm and program only is free. Marwa Elbially speaks on "Women in Islam" Are Muslim women inferior to men? What does the Qur'an say? What is a Muslim woman's role in society today? If you require a vegetarian or kosher meal, please let us know when you make your reservation. Reservations due to the IFC office , 370-2150 or schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com, by November 4.

Schenectady Area Clergy Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held Sunday, November 20 at 3:00 pm at the GE Theater at Proctor's, 432 State Street, Schenectady.

**Junior  
Youth Group Meetings  
this month:  
November 6 & 20.**



**Senior  
Youth Group Meetings  
this month:  
November 13 & 27.**

## Outreach Work Area – Extending the Love of Christ to Those

### Hurricane Irene—the local story

Recovery from Hurricane Irene is still affecting the day to day lives of many in the North East, including a large number in the Capital District. In our own back yard there are still families who are unable to live in their homes. Work teams from Eastern Parkway have been helping in this process, on the last three Saturday's nine individuals have assisted four Schenectady families. Outreach will continue to organize and deploy work teams to assist those affected by Hurricane Irene. If you are interested, please contact Rev David E Smith by email at [revdavid76@gmail.com](mailto:revdavid76@gmail.com), and you will be included in notifications on upcoming work team assignments.

Eastern Parkway has also been involved in the production of Health Kits which will replenish UMCOR's of those used in response to the many storms that have responded to this Summer. UMCOR and The Upper New York Annual Conference need for funds to respond to Hurricane Irene is a continuing need as they seek to respond to needs not covered by insurance, FEMA, and other sources. Our contributions through UMCOR and the Annual Conference may mean the difference between whether a family is able to afford to repair their home or abandon it.

Your contributions may be made by placing a check in the offering plate on Sunday, sending a contribution to the church at the below address or contributing on line directly to UMCOR at <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/>, the process is quick and allows you to give credit for your donation to the church. Contributions should be marked "UMCOR or Annual Conference Spring Storms". Contributions mailed to church should be sent to: Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church, 943 Palmer Ave, Schenectady, NY 12309

### Cold Weather Dangers

The leaves are changing color and the nights are getting cooler, fall is here and winter is not far behind. For me Fall and Winter are glorious times whose beauty I enjoy capturing with my camera. For those who are homeless though the cooler temperatures are a severe challenge, especially when they don't have proper clothing. Bethesda House is in need of winter coats for their clients. Donations of winter coats may be dropped off at the church. Bethesda House also continues to need your financial support as it struggles to deal with the challenges that these difficult economic times. One challenge which Bethesda House is seeking to address is to provide a warming station for those who are homeless and unable to find a place in a shelter. Our next special offering for Bethesda House is on October 23. You may make a donation designated for Bethesda House at any time to them directly or through the church, mark your gift Bethesda House. Contributions may be dropped in the offering plate or mailed to the church at the above address.

### Hunger – A Local Issue

Even while the United States is battling the problem of obesity there are 6,000 in Schenectady whose need for basic nutrition is not being adequately met. The Schenectady Inner City Ministries is able to feed 1,000 of those needing help. You can help SICM continue to feed the hungry by supporting it through your financial contributions and volunteering to your time. See Cheryl Gerstler's article for the latest news on what is happening with SICM.

**Homelessness Benefit Concert** - Brooks Tegler 16-piece Jazz Orchestra will present a benefit concert on Thursday, November 10, 7:30pm at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. Tickets are \$30, \$35 or \$39. To purchase tickets, please contact the Music Hall at 273-0038 and let them know you would like Bethesda House to share the proceeds of your ticket purchase. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Mausert, 370-2231 or Randy Roeser, 372-2273.



# November Scriptures

Nov 6	Nov 13	Nov 20	Nov 24	Nov 27
21st Sun after Pentecost	22nd Sun after Pentecost	23rd Sun after Pentecost	Thanksgiving Day	1st Sun of Advent
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78:1-7 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13	Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123 or 76 1 Thessalonians:5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46	Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Psalm 65 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Luke 17:11-19	Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37
All Saints Sock Project Sun World Communion		Food Pantry Sun		

Lay Participants for November		Next Meeting Dates
<b>Lay Readers:</b> <b>Nov. 6:</b> Rick Mausert <b>Nov. 13:</b> Connie Trigger <b>Nov. 20:</b> Sue Williams <b>Nov. 27:</b> tba	<b>Acolytes:</b> Alice Menis & Kaitlyn Gerstler Emma Bour & Kaitlyn Gerstler Jeanna Brown & Naionna Grisby Alice Menis & Talyah Chaires	<b>Circle B</b> <b>Tuesday, November 1</b> <b>9:30 am</b>
<b>Chancel Committee:</b> Lois Wilson & Dot Ross <b>Cashiers:</b> Roger Kerr, Howard Braungart, Carolyn Canova		<b>Church Council</b> <b>Tues., Nov. 8</b> <b>7 pm</b>
<b>Office Hours</b> The <u>church office hours</u> are Monday through Thursday, 9:00am-2:30pm and Fridays 9am – 12pm. <u>Pastor Alan 's office hours</u> are generally Tuesday through Friday, 9am-12pm and others by appointment. Everyone is welcome to stop in but it is best to call ahead.		<b>Trustee Mtg</b> <b>Wed., Nov. 16</b> <b>7 pm</b>
<b>The Food Pantry alert for November</b> is for jars of jam or jelly. Cash donations are most welcome as the Food Program can purchase much more through the Regional Food Bank than anyone can buy at a local store for the same amount of money. For example, the Food Pantry can purchase items for 16 cents a pound at the Regional Food Bank. <u>The third Sunday of every month is Food Pantry Sunday at EPUMC.</u> <b>Don't forget!</b> We also collect gently used children's books to donate to SICM.	<b>SPRC</b> <b>Tuesday, Nov. 21, 7 pm</b>	<b>Finance Team Mtg</b> <b>Thu., Nov. 17.</b> <b>7 pm</b>
<b>Wednesday Night Dinners...</b> are held in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm. Bring a dish to share—beverages and place settings are provided. Nov. 2—Regular dinner celebrating November birthdays and anniversaries. Nov. 9, 16, —Regular dinners Nov. 23— <b>NO Dinner!</b> Happy Thanksgiving! Nov. 30—Regular Dinner <b>**A REMINDER THAT if the Niskayuna and/or Schenectady schools close for inclement weather, then EPUMC is closed and WND is canceled.</b>		

**GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ~ FULFILLING OUR PROMISES ~  
PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE ~ SEPTEMBER 2011**

<u>Our Prayers</u>		<u>Our Presence</u>	<u>Our Gifts</u>		
David Spawn	Clara Marks	09/04	61	09/04	\$ 3551.00
Olly Clute	Donna Spawn	09/11	135	09/11	\$ 4881.94
Devon LaPrade	Bill Paul	09/18	107	09/18	\$ 2050.60
Jeremias Franca	Kim Nash	09/25	95	09/25	\$ 5451.69
Jene Spawn					
Inner Peace ~ World Peace					
<i>If you have prayer concerns, joys, prayers of thanks or celebration you would like included in this section, please submit them to the office at 374-4306 or epumc943@yahoo.com</i>		<u>Our Service</u>		Food Pantry	\$ 96.13
		Thanks to everyone who worked to put together a wonderful Laity Sunday worship.		Sock Project.	\$ 75.07
		A big thank you to all those who worked on a fabulous Ministries Fair.		Advance 291670	\$ 455.00
				UNY 4200	\$ 500.00
				Advance 901670	\$ 375.00
				Christian Ed	\$ 6.00

## November Birthdays

05—Howard Braungart; Randy Roesser

07—Ed Menis

13—Kristen Mausert

14—Nadia Louden

17—Khalil Chaires

18—June Evanoff; Jonathan Quail

20—Fran Carlson

23—Sam Veglia

26—Braeden Kerr

30—Matthew McClenon; Jerry Oliver

## November Anniversaries

25—John & Desiree Chaires

28—David & Brenda MORROW

**If your birthday or anniversary is missing,**

**Please submit it to Barbara in the office at 374-4306**

**or epumc943@yahoo.com**

**St. Helen's Parish, 1803 Union Street, Niskayuna,** is hosting Fair Trade/ Alternative Giving sales on November 19 and 20 and on December 11 and 18. The sales will be held in the school gymnasium at 1801 Union St. Schenectady. Saturday hours will be 4:00 to 6:00 PM and Sunday hours will be 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Fair Trade goods, including jewelry, clothing, and giftware, as well as Fair Trade chocolate and coffee will be available. In addition, there will be opportunities to select Alternative Gifts that support water distribution systems, education initiatives, and sustainable farming in many parts of the world. Admission is free. Please drop by to browse and perhaps find a unique gift.

November 2011

## Eastern Parkway UMC

943 Palmer Avenue

Schenectady, NY 12309

Ph: 518-374-4306

Fax: 518-374-4308

epumc943@yahoo.com

www.easternparkway.weebly.com

December newsletter deadline  
is Thursday, November 10.

Dated material

Deliver Promptly

Change service requested

**Sunday Morning Schedule: 10:00 am - Worship**

**Nursery care is available from 9:45am –12 pm**

**Handicapped accessible**

**Hearing Assists**

**PASTOR**

Alan D. Kinney

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:**

Paul-Allan Carey, FSD

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Barbara J. Paul

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Mon-Thurs: 9am—2:30pm, & Fri. 9am-12pm

**OUR MISSIONARY:**

Jeremias Franca

**SAVE THE DATES!!!!**

Harvest Dinner  
Sunday, November 20  
11:30am  
See the sign-up sheet  
in the hallway!



Bob Honeyman's  
Handmade Wooden Toy  
Sale  
Saturday,  
December 3, 9am  
Tell your neighbors!