

the GRAPEVINE

VOL V ISSUE IV, APRIL 2011

Samantha Zaharis

✧ An Interview ✧

A SERIES OF ARTICLES WHERE WE CAN
LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CONGREGATION



Samantha “Sam” Zaharis joined us for dinner earlier this month and gave us a gift of renewed faith in why we feel that Trumansburg is a great place to raise our nine year-old daughter. This was the first time since Sam returned from college that we had an opportunity to spend time with her and get caught up on the last several years. In her senior year at high school Sam had babysat for Molly on several occasions. We looked forward to an update on her transition from the academic life and her decision to return to Trumansburg on completion of her Bachelor’s Degree (*majoring in interpersonal communications with a concentration in public relations and a minor in hospitality management*) from East Carolina University last year.

Sam was born in Ithaca in 1987 and spent her kindergarten through high school years in the Trumansburg educational system. During those years she cheerfully developed a personal spiritual foundation that has

survived the teen years, an unfathomable family tragedy, and four years of college life and its distractions. During her later teens, she and several of her friends woke up an hour early every Friday to attend a 7 a.m. Prayer and Bible Study Group. As a member of our Presbyterian senior youth group she sat with her peers in the second pew during Sunday services - hopefully a tradition which will reappear in our sanctuary in the future.

At East Carolina University, Sam and a friend started the local chapter of *Relay for Life* which provides support for cancer research. While at university, she actively sought out religious experiences and attended several Greenville, NC churches, gaining an appreciation of Southern hospitality through church activities. She also kept in touch with FPCU and our weekly services. She was one of the first members of our church to use the podcasts on our church Web site to listen to Pastor Cheryl’s sermon from another state. Her connection to our church coupled with a desire to be with area friends and close to her family made her decision to return to Trumansburg easy.

On her return from North Carolina, Sam joined the Excellus Healthcare Organization in Auburn as the scheduling coordinator for their in-

home health aides covering Cayuga County. In the past week or so, however, Sam has accepted a new position with the owners of Joe’s restaurant to be responsible for, among other duties, the Ithaca Yacht Club bar and dining facilities that is managed by the Joe’s ownership team. She is looking forward to returning to the food and restaurant industry in which she had previously held many different positions.

In her spare time she enjoys hiking with her dog Malachai, cooking, running, and spending time with her sister Karissa, who is about to graduate from Trumansburg this year. She is a long time “honorary member” of the Decloux family and gratefully treasures the book “God Believes In You”, which was given to her at high school graduation by Joel Decloux. It is “the best present I was ever given” says Sam.

In addition, she especially enjoys her grandparents, Kris and Neil, and worshiping with them again in our church. She loves being reconnected with our church and acknowledges an appreciation of Pastor Cheryl and the spiritual guidance she provides.

In conclusion, we are particularly thankful to have Sam back with us.

She makes us happy.

- The MacQueens



Preparing the Way

Dear Friends,

This month we continue in our Lenten Disciplines as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. The final week of Lent, Holy Week, begins for us this year with a **Palm Sunday Procession on April 17 as the Trumansburg Area Churches host a parade!** Everyone will get palm branches to wave as we walk around the block with friends from the Church of the Epiphany Episcopal Church, Trumansburg United Methodist Church, St. James Catholic Church and other members of the community. Meet at the Church of the Epiphany at 9:15 a.m. sharp as we begin with The Blessing of the Palms. After the parade, we will return here for worship.

Join us on Maundy Thursday, April 21 at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel for a shared Dish-to-Pass supper followed by the celebration of communion as we remember Jesus' Last Supper. Please bring a dish to share and your own table

service. This is a special time together, appropriate for all ages, and we hope you will plan to celebrate it with us. We will be finished in time for Choir Practice for those who would like to do both.

On **Good Friday, April 22**, the FPCU sanctuary will be open from noon to 3 p.m. for anyone who would like a quiet place for prayer and reflection. During that time, we will also have the Chartres Labyrinth from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School here at FPCU laid out in the Chapel for anyone who would like to experience this spiritual discipline. Directions for how to walk the labyrinth will be available for you. If you would like to know more about labyrinths here is a good description: <http://www.cmcuwv.org/labyrinth/meaning.htm>.

On Easter Sunday, April 24, Pastor Dennis Christiansen of First Baptist Church will lead the 7 a.m. Trumansburg Area Churches' Sunrise Service at the North Point in the Pavilion at Cayuga Lake. Dress warmly for this service even though it will be inside and there will be a fire. The 10 a.m. Worship Service here in the FPCU sanctuary will be full of celebration. Our Easter focus will be on worship and there will be no Sunday School that day.

Please invite your friends to come worship with us as we celebrate Holy Week and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Blessings— Pastor Cheryl

APRIL & Early MAY SCHEDULE *for* SUNDAY ADULT LEARNING

We hope you can join us as we gather in the Lange Room and the Stage for some wonderful topics as enter into spring. **Cheryl's class, "Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers" is several weeks into its 8-week run. This class meets in the Lange Room. Join for a week or two, or the rest of the session.** Please speak with Pastor Cheryl if you'd like to know more about this class. The schedule for the Thoughtful Christian Series that will meet on the stage is below. If you have questions about our class offerings, please talk with Marvin Pritts or Amy Dawson.

4/3

AMY DAWSON
Miracles & Faith
(Stage)

4/10

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY,
NO SUNDAY STUDIES;
FIRST PICNIC OF THE
YEAR AFTER
CHURCH

4/17

DAVID SCHNEIDER
Topic TBD
(Stage)

4/24

EASTER SUNDAY
NO SUNDAY STUDIES

5/1

ALLISON PRITTS
Topic TBD
(Stage)

Healthy Women Healthy Families— the Mother's Day Connection!

Honor a woman who has been important in your life—a mother, grandmother, friend, trail blazer—with a gift to the Healthy Women Healthy Families program. A ten dollar contribution will provide a mosquito net, prevention education, or other essential health support for mothers and children. **We will provide special HWHF cards for you to send to the women you honor with your gift.**

This program first started with the support of a special Mother's Day offering toward the NetWorkers Malaria Prevention Program, providing mosquito nets and malaria prevention education for mothers and children in Africa. It has since expanded to give our church partners in Africa the support sorely needed to provide a variety of needed health services. Here are just a few of the sobering statistics from sub-Saharan Africa: one woman of every 16 dies from complications of pregnancy or childbirth, malaria kills 3,000 children daily, a woman in Africa dies of cervical cancer every ten minutes. Healthy Women Healthy Families provides significant help in addressing these issues.

The Caring & Benevolence Committee will have an information table and will receive contributions on two Sundays: May 1 & 8. May 8th IS Mother's Day! We will provide HWHF cards for you to give to the women you honor with these gifts. If you have questions or wish to make an earlier donation, contact a Caring & Benevolence Member. Thanks!

-Carolyn Lange

Tent Crew News!



New Boxes

Out with the old and in with the new! Merle Stillions purchased lumber and hardware and made new boxes for our stakes. The old WWII ammo boxes were nearly 'shot' and the new ones are much appreciated. Thanks Merle!

New Tentmaster

After 21 years of faithful service, Chuck Dunlap is stepping down. Jerry Kraus has volunteered to take over. Many thanks to Jerry!!

New Season

Our tent is nearly all booked up for the coming season. Look for the schedule and sign-up sheet after the rummage sale.

-Chuck Dunlap

Communion & Home Visits



The Sacrament of Holy Communion is available to those who are homebound, hospitalized, or otherwise unable to attend worship at FPCU. Anyone who would like to request Communion and/or a visit by the pastor (for yourself, or for a family member who is not able to make the request for her/himself) may do so by contacting **Pastor Cheryl at 387-8185 or fpcu@zoom-dsl.com.**

Dancing, Dessert & Dinosaurs

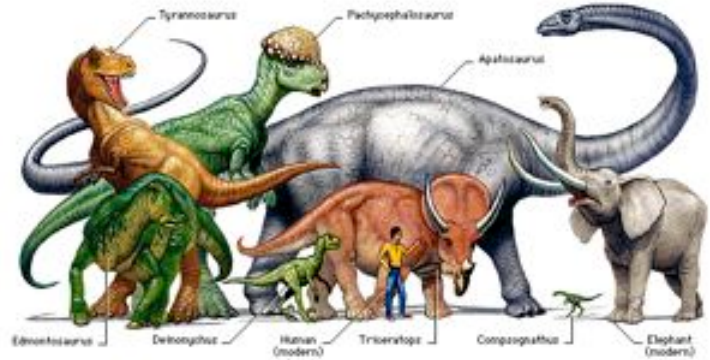
A GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER CO-SPONSORED BY MUSEUM OF THE EARTH AT THE PALEONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Join us on Saturday April 23rd from 7-11 p.m. at the Museum of the Earth. Tickets are **\$30 per person in advance or \$40 at the door (student tickets \$15 each)**. Dress is semi-formal. Music is by Sound Decision and FREE babysitting is provided by Suzanne Koontz. Kids will enjoy an evening of "Math and Movement with Mastodons" and there will be drawings for prizes.

To reserve your tickets, contact Allison Pritts at allipritts@gmail.com or 387-6010. Checks made out to First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses.

All money raised will go to purchase supplies for the Casa Shalom orphanage (concrete, paint, antibiotics, food). 24 high school students from Ithaca and Trumansburg will visit the orphanage in August.

To learn more about the orphanage visit: www.casashalom.net or www.thehansonsinguatemala.blogspot.com.



Hygiene & School Kits



The Caring and Benevolence Committee would like to assemble Hygiene kits to be sent to Japan by Church World Service. We'll also be collecting School Kits. You can either assemble a kit or donate items for the committee to assemble. **Please bring items for your kit(s) or your assembled kits to church by Sunday April 17th.**

Hygiene Kit: 1 hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels), 1 washcloth, 1 wide-tooth comb, 1 nail clipper, 1 bar of soap (bath size in wrapper), 1 toothbrush (in original packaging), 6 standard size Band-Aids.

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. Please do not add

toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment.

School Kit: 1 pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip), three 70 count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose leaf or filler paper), One 30 centimeter ruler (12"), 1 hand-held pencil sharpener, 1 large eraser, 6 new pencils with erasers, 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24 please), 1 12"x14" to 14" by 17" lightweight cotton or canvas bag with cloth handles.

- Caring & Benevolence Committee



College Life: Max Koehler

Max is in his first year at Cornell. He is majoring in Environmental Engineering. He's currently looking to correlate that to working on turf management for golf courses. Max shares that he has nice roommates and that he does manage to see his Dad (*Dave works at Cornell*) to catch a ride home every now and then or to grab a quick bite. This month he shares some of his freshman year experiences with us.

What is the thing that you most enjoy about being away from home?

Everybody says "freedom" and it is true. Just being able to do your own thing and be independent is a nice feeling at times.

How often do you go home to visit your family?

I visit my family probably a couple times a month; being close to home is really nice because I can go home when I really need to ... do laundry.

You are on the Cornell golf team. How was your first season?

I am, my first season was a great experience and a lot of fun, all the kids on the team are good guys. Actually, I am in Orlando on our pre-spring season trip as I am typing this. Golf resumes in the spring, ending with the Ivy league championships at the end of April.

What's really nice is the mailroom. I've gotten a lot of mail, and I tack the envelopes up on my wall. I just got the care package from the youth group — thanks guys! It's nice to get tangible communication every once in awhile.

How old were you when you started playing golf? Tell us a little bit about how you grew to love this sport.

I probably started playing with really clubs and balls when I was around eight. It was always casual and fun for our family when I was a young age, I just genuinely enjoyed playing the game. I really didn't start playing competitively until high school, I knew I loved the game so I decided to give up baseball to play on the golf team; I'm pretty happy with that decision. I love playing pretty much every sport. During my fall semester I played intramural football and basketball and I'll start intramural softball in the spring.

We saw you in the lift line at Greek Peak this winter. Did you enjoy downhill skiing?

Yes, I thoroughly enjoyed myself, that was my one and only time so I tried to make the most of it.

You are pledging a fraternity this year, tell us about that experience (what you can of course).

Ummm, right now it's tough but I'm sure I will look back on it as a good experience ... I hope.

- Max Koehler & Amy Dawson



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Each month we celebrate birthdays on the 2nd Sunday after church. This month is extra special with the birthday Sunday also lining up with the First Picnic of the season sponsored by Congregational Life. Enjoy birthday dessert treats provided by UPW. (*Read more about the picnic on page 8*).

2 Milli Tubbs, Melanie Andres, Warren Hickman

5 Jessica Mullen, Doug Haus

6 Alice Ploss

7 Dan Erickson, Schulyer Madison

9 Louis Kirkman, Samantha Whitted

12 Amy Dawson

13 Dave Schneider, Jerry Kraus

14 Benn Bartshevich

15 Anne Bialke

18 Bryn O'Brien

20 Gary Buchner

24 Charles Lounsbury, Martha Dickson

25 Judy Riley

27 Nancy Van Orden



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULYSSES

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This publication is edited by Amy and Scott Dawson. Please email submissions to amy@emotcakes.com or scott@dawsonmediadesign.com. If you have any questions or comments, call us at 387-7031.



Tent Crew Scholarship

This award is given annually to a college-bound high school senior who has been involved in school, church, and community activities. The applicant(s) will have displayed excellent citizenship and actions that exhibit sensitivity to the needs of those around them.

This scholarship honors the memory of George Dyke, Gordon Brown and Reverend Tom Lange. Applications are available at the Church Office, TCS Guidance Office, or on our website at <http://fpcu.info/our-family/memorial-scholarship>. Visit the website to learn more about the scholarship, or to print out your application form. Please remember to return your application by April 15th. - *Jerry VanOrden*

Newsletter Editor

We are still looking for someone to take over the job of editing this publication. Are you interested in graphics

and layout? Are you looking for a way to meet more of the church congregation? Do you love to seek out a story? If any of these things sound like you, please contact Amy Dawson @ 387-7031 or amy@emotcakes.com. Scott and I will work with you on the June issue, and you can plan to start in September.

First Picnic of the Season

Hope for a beautiful, sunny spring day on **Sunday, April 10th**. At FPCU we are planning a picnic lunch following worship. Shake the cobwebs off those picnic dishes and pull out your special summer salad recipe to prepare for joining in. We ask you to bring your own table service and a picnic side dish (*even potato chips work*). We will provide meat for the grill, rolls and beverages. April 10th is also birthday Sunday, so dessert will be compliments of UPW in celebration of April birthdays.

Put in a good word for a sunny, warm day and plan to join the picnic on Sunday April 10th following worship.

-*Congregational Life*

