



ANNIVERSARY

Unity Acres

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June 27, 2018

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

Our last newsletter was dated February 25, and in that letter we talked about various building projects past, present, and future, with the promise to provide more details in the coming months, both in the newsletters and on our website.

Also, we announced the time and the place of the then-upcoming annual ‘friend-raiser’ dinner: April 19 at All Saints Parish in Syracuse with the theme, *You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house.* We had in mind when settling on that theme that we would be devoting our time and resources during the spring to the completion of certain necessary repairs to the ‘Brick Building.’

We were also then preparing a quiet commemoration of Unity Acres’ 49th anniversary on March 3rd, with the intent of a more extensive celebration of our 50th anniversary during 2019.

FATHER JONES

Subsequent to our last mailings, though, and early in the morning of Palm Sunday, Father Jones suffered a fall in his room, which led to a 911 call, transportation by ambulance to Oswego Hospital, and from there to the ICU at University Hospital in Syracuse where he remained until the Wednesday of Holy Week. Then followed an admission to the Manor at Seneca Hill Nursing Home in Oswego for rehabilitation. He was close to the point of discharge from the Manor, until a set-back on April 4 necessitated Father’s being re-admitted to Oswego Hospital until the following Monday. He returned to the Manor, where he has been ever since, working hard at PT, OT and Speech Therapy. During all this time, Peg McCarthy has been an unwavering support and advocate for Father Jones, while Debbie Carnes has increased her availability and presence here at the Acres – thanks Deb!

Father has been able to take a few day-passes from the Manor, including two visits to the Acres, and a few other social occasions. As of today’s date, we anticipate (and are looking forward to) Father’s return to the Acres in July. The last three months have taken a great toll on him, and on Peg, and on our little community at large as well. Father’s daily presence here (and Peg’s) have been greatly missed so we will be glad to have him home soon.

ANNUAL DINNER

Our annual celebration of Unity Acres took place as scheduled with Dave Pasinski as our Em-Cee and principle organizer, with Nick Orth of Friends of Dorothy as our caterer, and Father Fred Daley and the people of All Saints as our hosts. It was a great pleasure to spend time with and share a meal with caring and generous supporters; to have a few moments to share memories and hopes for the future, to remember those who have come before us and those of our men we've lost during the last year.

Honorees for the evening were Mike and Elaine Crough, and Loretta Dickhout (my mother). Mike and Elaine have been involved with the Acres for many years, with Elaine serving currently as a member of our board and Mike as our former president, and 'smart lawyer-friend' who guided Unity Acres through the process of incorporation in 1999-2000. My mother shared her story of first visiting Unity Acres with her friend JoAnne, during the early 1970s, never supposing that she would be as deeply involved here as she has over years since 'retiring'.

Elaine, Mike and Loretta received as a token of the appreciation of the evening's organizers beautiful plaques each inscribed with a message of love and gratitude, and each bearing a photo of the 'Stone Chapel'.

Later that evening, Bear Foote, who had been on duty at the Acres, and therefore absent from the dinner, received a similar plaque in recognition of his service to the Unity Acres community.

KATE STANTON: HONORED AT ST. LUCY'S

Around the same time as arrangements were being made for the dinner at All Saints, we learned from Dave that Kate Stanton was to be honored by Saint Lucy's Church in Syracuse. Her photo would be added to Saint Lucy's 'Path of the Peacemakers' – this honor coincided closely with what would have been Kate's 100th birthday on April 24 this year.

Kate has been part of the story of Unity Acres from the very early days in the late 1960s, joining with Father McVey, Father Ted Sizing, Frank Woolever and many others in the first efforts to acquire the old TB Sanitarium property in Orwell which we have occupied since March 3, 1969. Kate spent the next 25 years of her life dealing with endless problems, bringing order out of chaos, begging, organizing, praying, until the day of her death on October 21, 1995. How appropriate that Kate would be remembered at Saint Lucy's—a church she loved so well. Thank-you, Saint Lucy's!



WATER TREATMENT BUILDING

The Unity Acres property is not served by municipal water (or sewer), so we have to provide these services ourselves. Our water system consists of a drilled well, a small cinderblock pump house hidden away amongst the trees, and a 'Water Treatment Building'. This last is a small white frame building immediately to the east of the Dining Hall. Below grade, at the bottom of a short flight of stairs are located the modern pumps, pump drives and chlorinator that were installed back in the fall of 2012 and which replaced a very old, temperamental and idiosyncratic collection of pumps, compressors and controls. There are also two large contact tanks in the Water Treatment Building, each containing 1,000 gallons of water [1,000 gallons = 8,340 pounds!] These tanks had been put in place in 2003 or 2004 after one of the original, cast iron, underground storage tanks failed suddenly, and were placed on top of improvised wooden supports, which during the subsequent fifteen or so years deteriorated badly. With the deterioration of the supports, the tanks were beginning to tilt alarmingly. This spring we had the old rotten supports replaced with cinder block, and additionally had some of the 15 year-old valves and other 'hardware' replaced.



BRICK BUILDING

The other major building project for the spring has been dubbed "the Brick Restoration". The Brick Building used to house a dormitory for new residents, but is now principally used for storage of donated clothing and coffee, mattresses, and a great deal of other items. The Coffee Shop is attached to the Brick Building and a Carpentry Shop and a Plumbing Shop are located in the basement, as well as the tunnel providing access to the 'C' Building basement. Critically, all the electrical service for the entire Acres property is fed through the 'Electrics Room' in the basement of the Bricks.

A few years ago, a small shed attached to the back of the Brick collapsed. This shed had been used as a storage space for lawn mowers and other such equipment. Soon after, another attached structure collapsed. Neither of these sheds were being used at the time. However, once the debris had been carted away, it was clear that the Bricks would need attention soon: the north-facing wall was in very bad condition. In places, gaps in the bricks and mortar went all the way from the exterior of the wall to the interior side.

But before addressing the masonry issues, we needed to attend to the roof! Fortunately, we were able to hire two local roofers who installed sheet-metal roofing last year. With the new roof in place, we were able to move onto the next step late this spring and hired a contractor to replace crumbled bricks and eroded mortar.

We're grateful to our supporters whose donations have provided the resources to allow us to complete these and other building and equipment projects. We have a few more goals in mind for the summer, and hope to be able to give further reports before the end of the year.

Steve Dickhout

FOOD TEAM UPDATE

Thank-you also for the many contributions we've received since last fall as part of our 'Food Team Appeal.' Please remember to include 'Food Team' on the memo line of your check if you are making a Food Team donation.

CALENDARS AVAILABLE

As part of the Acres 50th anniversary celebration, it was suggested we put together a calendar for 2019. No sooner than the thought was spoken than the work of selecting photos and themes began. After many emails between Peg, Loretta and Meg Carnes, the final product arrived in time for the Friend-Raiser dinner at All Saints.

Kathy Crandall assisted in the sales at the door, but we still have a limited number left. If you would like to receive a copy of our Unity Acres Calendar for 2019, please let us know. We've suggested a donation of \$19.69.

PICNIC DATE: AUGUST 19, 2018

We are planning our Annual Outdoor Mass and Picnic, as usual, on the 3rd Sunday of August – this year, it's August 19th. Mass begins at Noon on the lawn in front of 'B' Building, and the Picnic is scheduled for approximately 1:00. We will reflect on the past year and regroup with our many friends to find strength in your support to carry on for another year. This year the date is August 20th.

PLEASE REMEMBER: DAVE WOOD, THADDEUS PLUMMER, BILL RUSSELL, MYRON DIXON.

All of these men have passed away since the last newsletter, and had been living away from the Acres at the time of their deaths. Please keep them in your prayers, and may they each obtain their eternal objective, a merciful judgment, and the happy repose of their souls.

HEALING PRAYER

*God, I know You have the power to restore me to good health.
I await your healing with much hope.
Do not allow the sickness of my body to weaken my spirit.
It is the health of our spirit, Lord, which is most important.*

This prayer is borrowed from a Get-Well card sent to Father Jones. It is his prayer at this difficult time in his life.