Hope Campus, Houghton’s second site in Buffalo, serves the formerly incarcerated and has 14 students. Begun in 2017, Hope Campus, works in collaboration with Peaceprints of WNY, a non-profit organization offering comprehensive reentry services to men and women involved in the criminal justice system. Rebekah Kimble (H.C. grad,’15, Masters—U.B.), offers capable leadership at Hope Campus.

Since mid-September Steve has served as interim dean of Houghton College Buffalo with the support of its capable team of staff members.

Racism, violence, and gentrification are among the complex ethical issues faced by our city. Thoughtful leaders are needed to guide us into the future. This semester, Houghton College Buffalo students debated the effects of gentrification on urban neighborhoods, both helpful and harmful. They grappled with the reality that even the good we do to make neighborhoods safer and to bring economic renewal can be like a “water bottle in the desert” if we don’t make our cities better for everyone. This thought provoking and well-argued debate empowered students to engage as community change agents.

Julian Cook teaches the class, “Governing the City,” which set the stage for the debate. A graduate of Houghton College (’13), and Boston University (’18) Julian is initiating a third Houghton Buffalo program, Fall of 2019, on Buffalo’s East Side to develop students as ethical leaders for civic engagement.

Mission of Christ Wesleyan Church, under the leadership of Pastor Yoshua Bashizi, continues to influence and positively impact young lives. This last August, six young people chose to follow Jesus in baptism. Several of the young people have become involved in the ministry of the church as choir members and Children’s Church leaders.
Ways for you to connect in Buffalo:

1. Join in the ministry at House of Grace through facility maintenance or sponsoring a game night for community young people.

2. Volunteer with Jericho Road Community Health Center—mentor an at risk mom as she prepares to welcome a new baby, become an English tutor, or support the work at Vive (housing for asylum seekers) through help with facility maintenance, offering childcare or leading a fitness class. (www.jrchc.org)

3. Be a coach in the Work Readiness program of 716 Ministries, coming alongside community members who are seeking stable employment. (www.716ministries.org)

4. Provide modeling and coaching support for young people at Mission of Christ who serve in the Children’s Church program.

For more info on involvement, please contact us.

Blessed Christmas and New Year to you, your families and communities! We are deeply grateful for your faithful prayers, partnership in ministry and generous giving.

Steve and Ruth Strand