

the Messenger

MAY 2006

Richardson Park United Methodist Church
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Pastor's Ponderings

*"Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!"*
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

I can close my eyes and still hear the echo of the joyous music of Easter reverberate through the sanctuary. I can feel the energy and excitement that always fills the church on Easter Day. A wonderful crowd of people comes through the doors to worship together and experience once again the joy that is Easter. And then...

Often there is quite a let-down the following week. The next Sunday is sometimes jokingly referred to as "Low Sunday." Attendance plummets, excitement dissipates, energy is at a low ebb. When I was serving as an Associate Pastor, my fellow associates and I often joked about "Universal Associate Pastors Preaching Day." All of our Senior Pastors had headed for the hills, nowhere to be found, drained by all the activities leading up to Easter. Who can blame them? I'm sure choir members and all those actively involved in the life of the church might like to do the same thing!

The Sunday After Easter...Wait!...Scratch that!...I made a mistake!...The Second Sunday of Easter, (doesn't that sound better) has come. Calling that particular Sunday by a different name is not just a matter of semantics, it's a reminder, and it's an important theological statement. For as Larry Stookey reminds us, The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is far too momentous an occasion and much too central to the life of the church and to our identity as Christians for the celebration to be confined to a single day. We have entered the Season of Easter!

In the weeks ahead, we will continue to hear the stories of how people encountered the Living Christ

and we will continue to sing the joyous music of Easter. The crowds that filled the church on Easter Day may not all be here, but the Living Christ continues to walk with us. While our energy level may be a bit low and our excitement somewhat diminished for good reason, a little reorientation never hurt.

Easter Day may have passed, but Easter is far from over. Dr. Stookey writes: "Easter Day is the opening of a protracted celebration, even as the Resurrection is itself the opening to a vast new reality." Perhaps we need to focus a bit less on what we do and a bit more on what God has done.

The Great Fifty Days of Easter are upon us. The season will come to a marvelous crescendo on June 4, the Day of Pentecost. Through all of these days, and through the highs and the lows, may we experience the presence of the Risen and Living Christ with us and among us. May we raise our hearts and our voices in praise as we celebrate the wondrous thing that God has done. For the Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Peace Be With You

Bill

April 23, 2006
The Second Sunday of Easter



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!!

Please submit the names of all students graduating this year from high school, college, and graduate degree programs to the church office, 654-0961 as soon as possible. Include the name and location of the school, plus the diploma or degree they will receive. These very special people and their accomplishments will be recognized at our June 4 worship service.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Courtney Burke	May 1
Claudia McFarland	May 1
Carolyn Nafzinger	May 3
Christopher Doughty	May 4
Joyce Toy	May 4
Muriel Campbell	May 5
Virginia Cohee	May 6
Katlyn Focht	May 6
Jacob Gomer	May 6
Johnathan Gomer	May 6
Lee Thomas	May 7
Cliff Campbell	May 8
Shirley Roberts	May 8
Katherine Banks	May 10
Kayla Griffith	May 10
Ruth Berry	May 11
Maegin Jo Coverdale	May 12
Ed McFarland	May 13
Volena Sease	May 13
Richard Beane	May 14
Steven Ott	May 14
Brianna Jones	May 15
Joshua Loose	May 15
Patty Meadows	May 15
Danny Cathell	May 16
Anna Mae Shewbrooks	May 16
Sidney Brooks	May 17
Katie Chambers	May 17
Allison Perugini	May 17
Maria Eva Ott	May 18
Robert McFarland	May 20
Leonard E. Moore	May 23
Brenda Tucker	May 26
James K. Carter	May 28
Cameron Przywara	May 29
Jimmie Focht	May 30
Peter Davis	May 31
Richard D. Fox	May 31

NOTE: If your name is not listed on our birthday calendar, please call the church office at 654-0961. Thank you.

Kristi J. Doughty



Happy
Mother's Day!

Hi everyone! May is here! Warm days, flowers, and Mother's Day make this a happy time of year! Richardson Park United Methodist Church is a beautiful and loving place to come and bring your children and youth to learn about God's grace.

PreK thru 4 will learn about how God wants us to encourage each other (churches share); God calls people to be workers for Him (Paul); We can tell people about Jesus wherever we are (the Philippian jailer); and we can work together to tell others about Jesus (Priscilla and Aquila) by focusing on passages from Acts and Galatians. Grades 5 thru 7 will finish their exploration of the New Life We Have in Christ by learning that "God's Word is our guidebook for new life." They'll then learn about "Success and Failure" - - "We make friends by caring about others (friendship); God can make our failures steppingstones to success (disappointments); and True success is becoming like Jesus by studying passages from Hebrews, Romans, Luke and Philippians.

If you have any questions, please speak with our dedicated teaching staff!

PreK/K thru 4 – Marlene Johnson and Donna Chambers
Grades 5 thru 7 – Rob Anderson
Grades 8 thru 12 – Bob Evely



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

In May, Esther Circle will take care of the flowers in the church and Deborah Circle will greet everyone joining in worship.

Circle Meetings

Deborah and Esther Circles	Mon., May 8, 6:00 p.m. Hunter's Den
Elizabeth and Phoebe Circles	Wed., May 3, 10:00 a.m. Church Lounge Lunch at Steak and Ale



MISSION TREE



On Sundays in **May**, we will be hanging **Flowers** on our Mission Tree. Hang a Flower on the tree in honor or memory of someone special to you. Minimum donation is \$1.00. Our tree is located in the Extension.

WESLEY TOWER BANKS

April 2006 \$110.56

Thanks to everyone for remembering to bring your filled banks to church the first Sunday of each month. Your change is really adding up. Our total to date for 2006 is \$693.11. Remember to pick up an empty bank as you leave the altar area on the first Sunday of each month.

ZINGO TAPES

Don't forget to bring your Zingo tapes to worship on Sundays. Just place them in the offering plates or in the wicker basket in the vestibule. On March 31, we received a check from Zingo's in the amount of \$152.71. Thanks again for your support.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all my "church family" for your many kindnesses when Mom passed away.

To Rev. Bill and Patti and everyone else for the delicious foods, many cards and donations made in Mom's name. I will never forget this. And a special thanks to the ladies for the delicious luncheon served us after the service.

Love and God Bless You All,
Carol Cathell and Family

KIDS CAFÉ

Kids Café's final session for the year 2005-2006 will conclude Thursday, May 11. "A Pirate Adventure" will be the theme as we celebrate the end of another challenging year.

Ms. Marlene has had marvelous success with her own little classroom of kindergarten and first graders. With the help of Ms. Barbara and our high school participants, Nicole, Maegin and Karalynn, the "Kids" were expected to learn and had a lot of fun in the process!

Keeping focused on our purpose was a bit of a task when some of our "Kids" arrived with little or no homework. However, our dedicated volunteer staff kept them motivated with life skills discussions, brain teasers, **BOGGLE**, **SCRABBLE**, and other such activities. Ms. Brenda was our in-house math expert and Ms. Sherlynn worked with our "Kids" in test-taking skills, comprehension and other reading-related activities. Throughout the year, Mr. Ed presented special programs that were lots of fun and included a twist for learning. Special thanks to our fabulous kitchen crew in presenting us with a superb supper each week.

Thanks everyone for your support and prayers.

Sandy Swain, Coordinator



CHANCEL CHOIR **Summer Schedule**

The Chancel Choir will sing the first Sunday in July, August and September. Practice will be held at 10:00 a.m. on these Sundays.

YOUTH EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 6 - 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM

LOLx2 and TYG will meet in Fellowship Hall to have some fun. Then we will have a **mandatory** rehearsal for the Youth Service to be held on Sunday, May 7.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

10:30 AM Youth Worship Service
11:30 AM Youth Wrap-up Party – Fellowship Hall
No LOLx2 or TYG this evening.

SUMMER EVENTS

There will be youth activities during the summer months. We will keep you posted.

Bless you all. Have lots of fun this summer! Christina and Rob



RPUMC VBS 2006

FIESTA

GET READY FOR SOME FUN! PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDARS!

WHEN: June 25-29

TIME: 5:30 -8:30

Includes dinner, games, music, crafts, storytelling, and Chadder's Desert Drive-In Theater! Ages 3 thru grade 6 (grades 7 and up – we need your help!)



****VBS DONATIONS NEEDED!****

Ribbon ¼ - 1" All sizes and colors
Black markers All sizes

Potting Soil
Fabric Paints
Google Eyes All Sizes

Quick dry markers
Mike & Ike Red Jellies

This is the third article in a series featuring committees and activities represented on RPUMC Church Council, the administrative body of the church. These articles are intended to provide insight about many contributions from our church family.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee compiles an annual budget which is brought to Church Council for approval, tracks receipts and disbursements, recommends investments for church funds, and literally pays the bills! These functions require diligent, ongoing commitment by a team of church members. Church treasurer Joe Tucker, assistant treasurer and financial secretary Sandy Swain, and financial secretary Janet Dickerson make up the administrative core of this group. Other members of the Finance Committee currently are Rob Anderson, Herb Atkinson, Byrom Price, and Joan Stadelman and by virtue of office Phyllis Thomas, Ed Ide, and Pastor Bill Green. The Finance Committee, as a whole, meets on an “as needed” basis. Most of the tasks of the committee, however, occur on a regular basis.

Each Sunday after worship service, several volunteers sort the contributions from the day’s offering and place them in the church safe. The next day, a three-person team counts the money, records each individual contribution and makes a bank deposit of the total offering. These functions are performed by two alternating groups: Barbara Sayles, Earle and Shirl Snapp and Sandy Swain, Pat Cummings, and Janet Dickerson. Each month Sandy Swain or Joe Tucker, church treasurers, pays the bills and Janet enters the financial data into the contribution and financial spreadsheets. Monthly, Joe and Sandy prepare a financial statement and bring it to the Church Council for review and discussion. This multi-page financial statement lists all the sources of receipts and disbursements as well as summarizes the money held in various accounts and investments. Income lines reflect the current month’s data and compare year-to-date income in the current year to the prior year, along with percentage of change. Disbursements are listed for the month, year-to-date, and percentage change to the budgeted amount. Are you confused yet? Thank goodness Joe has an accounting background, and Sandy and Janet are dedicated to keeping track of the details. What would we do without them?

The church’s expenditures include salaries, benefits, local church ministry (such as educational materials, Vacation Bible School, and evangelism), conference ministries, church and parsonage utilities, mission donations, and building maintenance and repair. Within the conference ministries are “apportionments,” our monetary obligation to the Peninsula-Delaware Conference which covers world mission projects and administrative costs. (Recall the first article of this series listed the local mission projects which are paid through fund-raising efforts of RPUMC Missions Committee.)

Each fall, the Finance Committee asks committee chairpersons and other individuals to submit their budget requests for the upcoming year. For example, the Education Committee would determine the amount needed for purchase of educational materials for the next year. After receipt of the data, the Finance Committee meets to compile a budget which reflects the amounts requested. The Church Council considers the budget and determines its final form.

On an annual basis, an independent audit of the church's finances is performed. Ed Locke has functioned as church auditor for many years. Harold Ritter now assists Ed in the auditing function.

The details above may make you dizzy, but they are intended to provide a sense of the complexity of running the finances of this little church with a BIG heart.

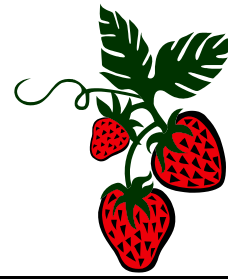
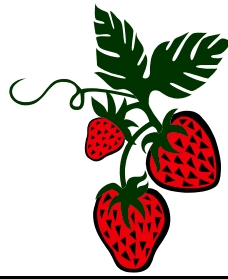
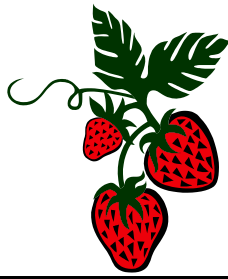
Kudos to the Finance Committee, volunteers who help sort and count the money, and the auditors. We appreciate your many hours of service and dedication to the church.



May 14, 2006

**Mother's Day Offering for Peninsula United Methodist Homes, Inc.
Your Gifts Make A Difference!**

As United Methodist church members, you make a difference in the lives of residents at Methodist Country House, Methodist Manor House, Cokesbury Village and Heron Point. You have volunteered your time, talents and treasure from the earliest days of the founding of Peninsula United Methodist Homes. Each Mother's Day, in honor of all Mothers, our Conference has graciously offered the Peninsula United Methodist Homes, Inc. the opportunity to conduct a special Mother's Day Offering for Benevolence. The Benevolence Fund provides support to residents who have outlived their life savings. This worthy program assures that **no resident who requires financial assistance will have to leave a PUMH community.**



**CAP STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
AT
CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN**

Saturday, June 3, 2006
9 AM - 3 PM (Rain or Shine)
Come and Join Us!

- **Flea market tables available - \$15**
- **Luncheon served**
- **Strawberry shortcake for sale**
- **Bake table**
- **CAP flea market table – donations appreciated**
- **Help wanted**

Contact:
Sandy Ide, Richardson Park U.M.C.
798-8664

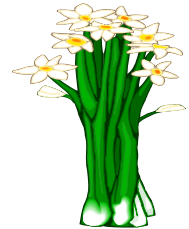
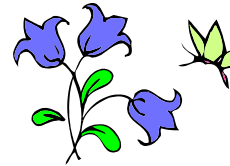
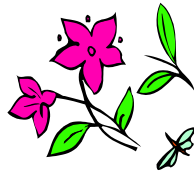
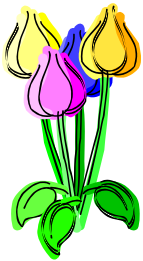
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Bill Green, Pastor



LAY READERS

May 7	Youth Sunday
May 14	Claudia McFarland
May 21	Barbara Sayles
May 28	Sheldon Edwards

ALTAR FLOWERS

May 7	Dave and Sandy Swain and Marvin and Betty Swain
May 14	Jerry and Joyce Toy
At the Cross	Mom Mom and Pop Pop
May 21	Mary Alice Bair
May 28	Eve Thomas
At the Cross	Ginger Pettyjohn

FLOWERS and GREETERS

For the month of May, Esther Circle is responsible for the flowers and Deborah Circle is responsible for the greeters.

Please submit your articles for the June Messenger to the Church Office by Friday, May 12. Thank you.

***PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING FOOD
FOR CAP THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.***

The purpose of Richardson Park United Methodist Church is to help people experience the amazing love of God and develop a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.