

Richardson Park United Methodist Church
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Pastor's Ponderings

*It's almost what? Lent!
How can it be Lent? I don't even
have all of my Christmas
decorations put away yet!*
You may have just such a
reaction as we look at the calendar for February.
Easter arrives just as early as it can this year
(March 23), which means we've barely taken a
post-Christmas breath and it is almost time to
start a new season.



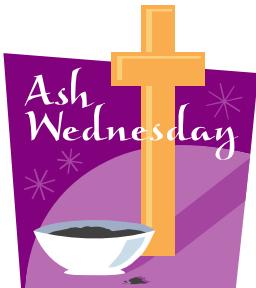
Of course, life itself seems to fly by that quickly from time to time. It seems that the older I get the more quickly the months, years, and decades go by. Some folks, who have celebrated more birthdays than I have, offer me encouragement with words like: "Don't worry Bill; it gets worse as you get older." Thanks.

As harried and distressed as we can become over the relentless march of time, the seasons of the church year offer us some important reminders and help bring home truths that are a source of inspiration, hope, and joy. Our stories are woven into the Great Story of God's redeeming love and grace. We are precious in God's sight now and always, and our lives have meaning and purpose as the hymn writer Roberto Escamilla reminds us "...whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing, we belong to God, we belong to God."

There are many ways to observe Lent, many ways to focus more intentionally on our connection to the Holy One. Some people give something up; some people take something on. Whatever you do, remember! Remember the Story. Remember how great the love of God is. Remember - We belong to God.

Peace,
Bill

Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 6
7:00 PM - Sanctuary



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Joey Pytel	2/1
Ashley Aiken	2/3
Edward Podgorski	2/4
Lillie Collins	2/8
Anna Crowe	2/8
Jeff Sheridan	2/8
Carol Cathell	2/10
Mary Sutor	2/11
Brian Crozier	2/12
Terri Antonine	2/13
Sherry Beamer	2/14
Ellen Willard	2/14
Katherine Oakmont	2/15
Lorne Shannon	2/17
Elaine Spedden	2/17
Frank Pugh	2/18
Robert Truitt	2/20
Kristin Fleming	2/21
Karalyn Hughart	2/21
Emma Riley	2/21
Greg Haynes	2/22
Morgan Coverdale	2/23
Ben Brindle	2/24
Bob Thomas	2/24
Angel Adams	2/25
Alice Brosch	2/26
Erin Maloney	2/28

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

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

In February, Rebekah Circle will take care of the flowers in the church.

Circle Meetings

Ruth Circle	Wed., February 6 10:00 a.m. Church Lounge
Rebekah Circle	Mon., February 4 7:00 p.m. Home of Marlene Johnson



WESLEY TOWER BANKS

January 2008 \$150.04

Thanks to everyone for remembering to bring your filled banks to church the first Sunday of each month. As you can see, we started out the New Year in a generous way. Remember to pick up an empty bank as you leave the altar area on the first Sunday of each month. AGAIN, THANKS FOR SAVING YOUR CHANGE.

MISSION TREE



On Sundays in February, we are hanging “Hearts” on our Mission Tree. Hang a “heart” on the tree in honor or memory of someone special to you. Minimum donation is \$1.00. Our tree is located in the Extension.

UPCOMING MISSION EVENT



Watch for more information on our Soup and Pie Sale scheduled sometime in March.

FIVE QUESTIONS

A Study For Lent

Sundays – 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

February 10, 24 March 2, 9, 16

Or

Tuesdays – 6:45 PM – 8:00 PM

February 12, 26 March 4, 11, 18

Interested or have questions?
See Pastor Bill



*Do you need a break from your hectic world?
A time of quiet?
An opportunity to sense God’s presence?*

*Join us in the Sanctuary - Wednesdays
7:00 – 8:00 PM
Come when you like.
Leave when you’re ready.*



*Say a prayer.
Light a candle.
Experience peace.*



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. Your support is appreciated!



CHRISTMAS ESSAYS

Below is our second essay, written by Carol Cathell. Thank you for sharing your special memories with us.

"I have many, many wonderful memories of Christmas here at church. Being a part of the children's pageant, singing in Hester Thomas' choir, and sitting between my grandparents at the candlelight services just enjoying all the music and wonderful aura of the services!

Later on, I was here to see my own children in the programs, singing in the choir and being acolytes for the services!

In a few more years, I hope to watch my little grandson, Brian, repeat the activities of his mom and uncles.

Through all my years in the Chancel Choir, the one memory that is repeated every year is when I look out at the congregation, through tear-filled eyes, seeing all the faces illuminated only by candlelight. I always feel at this moment that whatever the past year has brought "all is calm" and "all is bright" and there is hope for the future. I know that there is wonderful peace for all from God our Father!"

FOOD FOR CAP

CAP is in need of the following items for their food pantry: **cereal, peanut butter, jelly and canned fruit.**

YOUTH NEWS

Welcome to 2008!

WHATEVER...

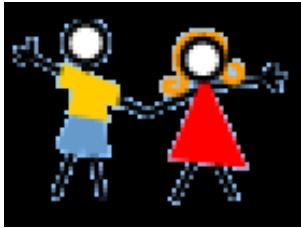
This might be the word you hear coming out of our youth for the next couple of weeks as they try to turn their words into actions. This year's Peninsula-Delaware Conference Youth Rally, held in Ocean City, MD, was themed with this word. I, too, thought it was strange at first; but upon arrival we learned that the word "Whatever" was really part of the scripture the weekend was based around from Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, do it as if working for the Lord, not for men." In that context, you see that the word whatever is not just teenager slang...but it sure did get the attention of all 4,500 youth that were in attendance.



By the end of the weekend, our youth had once again confirmed in front of everyone that the spirit is working through each of them in very different ways. Thank you for the support and prayers you always share with our youth when they go on this trip. It is one of the most inspirational activities they participate in.

To the youth - The calendars for the spring are coming! Don't forget that if you are going to Maine for the mission trip with Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church you and your parents should attend the meeting at their church on Sunday, January 27 from 6-8 PM. Here's to a year filled with as many "whatevers" as possible!

Mrs. Beth & Mr. Ryan



KIDS' KORNER & GOD'S LITTLE ANGELS ANNETTE OTT

GOD'S LITTLE ANGELS

We had an exciting time visiting the Veterans' Home last month and really had a good turn out of our "Little Angel's." We took snacks and drinks to our Veterans and enjoyed quite a few games of Bingo with them -- prizes and all. Even though there was a big game of football on TV, we managed to draw most of the Veterans to us for some fellowship and fun. That goes to show you the power of God's love and how we draw others to it with our presence and kindness. We all had a great time. Thanks to all who helped, attended and played. I know that our Veterans appreciated it and so did God!!!

We will be gearing up for our spring planting in a few months as our next project for God's Little Angels. Our Wesley Tower Garden always is a welcome project to ring in the spring. More information will follow.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

PreK-Grade 5 will be studying some of the Parables of Jesus. These lessons will be taken from the Bible books of Matthew and Luke. We also are preparing some wonderful music.

Grades 6-12 will be exploring the topics of Loneliness, Love, Loving Others and Loyalty for the month of February. This seems a fitting topic for our youth with Valentine's Day on the way.

We will be using Psalm 139 to help teach us about Loneliness, where God teaches us that he is our ever-present friend and is someone to turn to in times of loneliness, for who knows us better than our Creator.

For our section on Love, we look to John 3:16 and God's ultimate sacrifice for his love of us. His love is a love that does not wait for love in return. It is not waiting for perfection in us. It is showing us that God's love has no boundaries.

Loving Others is a section that we take our learning from John and Matthew in the Bible, teaching us to try to love others as though we are loving the Lord himself and to treat everyone as valuable to God.

For our section on Loyalty, we look to Ruth to learn to strengthen our loyalty to God by strengthening our faith. We also will learn that showing loyalty to others will strengthen our loyalty to God.

We feel that we will have an exciting adventure next month in our Sunday School class and look forward to learning our four L's – Loneliness, Love, Loving Others and Loyalty.

PreK thru Grade 5 – Marlene Johnson, Donna Chambers, and Michelle Anderson
Grades 6 thru 12 – Kristi Doughty, Rob Anderson, and Annette Ott

100TH ANNIVERSARY

Concert Update in April

As we continue our centennial celebrations, February and March will be quiet. SHhh we are preparing for the Spring Concert in April. The date was moved to Sunday April 20 at 3:00 p.m. The title of the concert is "**100 Years of Timeless Gifts.**" Please mark your calendars with the new date.

The music scheduled includes chancel bells, chancel choir, youth and a string ensemble, Shaw Strings. They are a string quartet from the area with violins, viola and cello. All groups are busy rehearsing and preparing for the big event.

Additional 100th Anniversary Events

Listed below are the dates for the additional celebrations:

May 3, 2008 Youth Coffee House Local church youth groups will come together to share their talents. Drama teams, praise bands, soloists, comedians, and any other talents are all welcome.

June 21, 2008 Community Open House Exhibits including Vacation Bible School, video tapes with history, tours of the church and Sunday School areas, and new member welcome packets.

Help us celebrate our anniversary as we reflect on the past and look to the future with youth and community. We hope to see you there.

Thank you for your continued support in all the past events. They all have been wonderful and exhausting at the same time. My gratitude to the 100th anniversary committee members cannot be measured. Thank you to everyone!

Faithfully, Terri Weaver



MUSIC NOTES

Terri Weaver, Director

On April 20, 2008, we are having a Spring Concert themed "**100 Years of Timeless Gifts.**" This theme came to me when I was sitting at the organ thinking I need a theme and have no idea what it should be. Then I reread a Bible Scripture Mrs. Marlene Johnson gave me several months ago. (I keep it on the organ always.) It's from Romans 12:6 "We have different **gifts**, according to the grace given us." We truly have 100 years of many gifts from our forefathers to the ministry of today. What is your gift?

If you have been thinking about helping with chancel bells or choir and don't want to commit for "all the time," perhaps this schedule will entice you to join us:

Practice Schedule for 4-20-08 3:00 PM Concert

		Time	choir	time	handbells	strings
Thurs	20-Mar	7:30	x	6:30	x	
Thurs	27-Mar	7:30	x	6:30	x	
Thurs	3-Apr	7:30	x	6:30	x	
Thurs	10-Apr	7:30	x	6:00	x	
Sunday	13-Apr	3:00	x	3:00	x	x
Thurs	17-Apr	7:00	x	6:00	x	
Sunday	20-Apr	2:00	X	1:45	X	X

We are planning to have bells, choirs, duets/solos and (your name here) _____ plus a string group called "Shaw Strings." Can we add you to the list for the concert?

Call Terri Weaver at the church office.

Faithfully, *Terri Weaver*

Update from Richardson Park Community Action Program

“CAP” - January 22, 2008



Community Service

CAP had a busy and successful first half of our new fiscal year. Highlights of our service activities for the six months ended December 31, 2007:

- Paid \$13,904 to landlords and vendors, assisting 57 families with rent, utilities, and prescriptions;
- Provided emergency food to 1,316 individuals, including 379 children;
- Created a new program of fresh produce delivery – CAP volunteers take fresh vegetables to clients’ homes every Monday;
- Distributed 31,800 pounds of food.

Staff: CAP is still recruiting for the position of Director. This is a part-time salaried position with administrative and fundraising duties. Call Mary Jane at CAP, 428-1247 for more information.

New Hours: CAP is no longer open on Saturday. Our hours: Monday and Tuesday 10 am to 3 pm; Thursday noon to 6 pm; Friday 10 am to 2 pm.

We thank all who donated in the big Challenge Grant. CAP’s Board of Directors jumped right on this challenge and with your help raised \$3,500 in one month! Together with the challenger’s \$2,500, that’s a total of \$6,000 for CAP! This money allows CAP to increase payments for rent and utilities for clients in crisis.

CAP also sends extra special thanks

- To the Church, for your gift of \$675 and your generous donations of food;
- To the United Methodist Women, for holiday donations of \$551;
- To the Koinonia Class, for ongoing support; and
- To Pat Pugh, for a sustaining year-end gift.

CAP wishes to thank its supporters from the business community:

Major Supporters (\$650 and up): Cosmos Restaurant; ShopRite; Zingo’s; Patricia A. Pugh of Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors; Stroehmann’s Bakery; the employees of Wilmington Trust Company.

Gold Level (\$100 to \$249): Delaware School and Office, LLC; Clark & Sons Overhead Garage Doors; Ralph A. Cicconi, Inc; Sath Amara, MD; Homalite; Rudy Marine; Castle Bag Company; Maryland Avenue Shell Station.

Silver Level (\$41 to \$99): Dr. Joseph Goldberg and Dr. Karen Darrell, Optometrists; Landis Ltd.; Wholesale Janitor Supply.

Bronze Level (\$40): Jeffrey K. Bartels, Attorney; McDonald Safety Equipment Inc.; Vince’s Glass Service, Inc.; Olympiad Gymnastics School.

RICHARDSON PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
11 NORTH MARYLAND AVENUE
WILMINGTON, DE 19804-1305

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Bill Green, Pastor



LAY READERS

February 3
February 10
February 17
February 24

Sherlynn Aurelio
Richard Sutor
Kristi Doughty
Melanie Mitten

February 3
February 10
At the Cross
February 17
February 24

Dennis and Marlene Johnson
Robert and Lee Thomas
Melissa Hughes
Chancel and Bell Choirs
Bob Evely

For the month of February, Rebekah Circle is
responsible for the flowers.

* * * * *

Please submit your articles for the March
Messenger to the church office by
Wednesday, February 13. Thank you.

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

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*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.*