

Richardson Park United Methodist Church
11 North Maryland Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19804-1305

Phone: 302-654-0961
Fax: 302-655-7446
E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org



*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.*
– Psalm 100 (New International Version)

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. I liked it because I always had more than just a lone day off to celebrate this secular and Christian feast. When I was a kid growing up in Wisconsin, we had the whole week of Thanksgiving off from school. (It was deer hunting season and most of the kids would have been sitting in a tree looking for next week's dinner anyway.) There was time for reflection and pondering. There was time for reading and playing and watching a ton of football on TV. There was little to no homework and there was good food, good friends, and good times. The whole week always seemed to pass in slow motion, unless you happened to be my mother and all the relatives were coming over to our house on Thursday for the traditional Thanksgiving feast. Then it would *not* be a week of peaceful thought and earnest reflection, but I digress . . .

This year as I look back at the insanity that has become 2008, I am struck with a deep sense of amazement. Mostly over the “tectonic” shift in all facets of my life. One year ago I was a busy student pastor trying to navigate the waters of graduation and the shoreline of future ministry. Now my thoughts are dominated by prayer and care and God and worship and love in a new church in a new city. While continuity is an important aspect of our daily lives, which keeps us sane and at peace, our ability to change is a valuable talent that borders on a spiritual gift. Thanksgiving plays a role in this. It keeps our heads and our feet grounded in this earthly reality, and it also helps us transcend it and reach *real* joy, even in the midst of monumental, earth-shattering change. Nothing helps to lift the spirits like a good old-fashioned, healthy dose of praise and thanksgiving. How many of us have had that occasional “bad hair day?” (If you haven't, I would have to question either your humanity or your memory.) As the ups and downs roll through our lives, the one thing that we can do, no matter how good, bad, or indifferent we feel, is to thank God for what we do have. God's blessings poured out all over us with a promise to never abandon us no matter what. God struggles with us when this world gets us down.

I am personally thankful for you all and the impact that you have had on my life. I love you all dearly. (Especially those of you whom I have never met and either received a copy of the Messenger or have found your way to our webpage, clicked on the Messenger link, and stayed on this page long enough to see what things I've gone ahead and written about this month.) You have taken me in, made me and my family feel at home, and loved me in return. It is my honor and joy to be in ministry with you in this wonderful area of New Castle County. Thanks for your support as I begin my journey into ordained ministry. Thanks for your friendship and for just being you.

May God work wonders in your heart during this holy season of Thanksgiving!

Blessing and Peace to you all,
Pastor Tom



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sandy Burkholder	11/1
Paul Ayala	11/2
Tracy Gamble	11/2
Sath Amara	11/3
Mary Fader	11/3
Frank Lindell	11/5
Kimberly Dale	11/6
Brandon Gamble	11/8
Robbie Swain	11/8
Bob Burkholder	11/11
Gladys Crozier	11/11
Erin Lindell	11/11
Emma Logullo	11/11
Barbara Sayles	11/13
Phyllis Bowman	11/14
Nickolas Gommer	11/14
John Ludlow	11/19
Aleta Hall	11/20
Clyde Nafzinger	11/20
Hannah Phillipe	11/23
Deborah Pruitt	11/25
Phyllis Thomas	11/25
Mary James	11/26
Sammy Pasmore	11/26
Louise Beck	11/27
Mallori Cochran	11/29
Laura Doughty	11/29
Kylie Parker	11/29
Tracy Simpson	11/29
Marvin Swain	11/29
Sherlynn Aurelio	11/30
Mary Alice Bair	11/30

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

ORGAN CONCERT

The October 19, 2008 Organ Spectacular Concert with Dr. Gordon Turk was a huge success. He is a great concert organist who made the organ sound wonderful. A special cake was designed in the shape of our organ to celebrate Jay Cumming's 80th birthday. We all sang Happy Birthday to Jay while Gordon played the organ. Thank you to everyone for your help to set up, clean up and support the concert. We are blessed to have many volunteers to help!

Faithfully, Terri Weaver



We want to thank all of the congregation, Pastor Tom and Rev. Bill of RPUMC and Rev. Tom Edwards of St. Mark's UMC of Stanton for the visits, prayers, get well cards, telephone calls and personal greetings over the past year and a half during my surgeries and periods of recuperation.

My wife, Nancy, joins me also in the appreciation for the cards, personal contacts and telephone calls on the passing of my brother-in-law, Richard E. Crozier, well known and beloved by all who knew him. These expressions of love and concern are comforting at a time when sorrow could otherwise overcome the average person unequipped to deal with the inevitable except for the support of friends as found in our church family.

Yours in faith,

Sheldon and Nancy Edwards

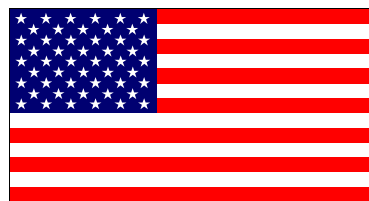


FALL BACK

Daylight Savings Time Ends
Sunday, November 2 at 2:00 AM.
Time to Turn Your Clocks Back One Hour!!!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

In November, Ruth Circle will take care of the flowers in the church.



Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle Mon., Nov. 3 7:00 p.m.
Church Lounge

Ruth Circle Wed., Nov. 5 10:00 a.m.
Home of Joan Stadelman
905 10th Avenue
Murray Manor II

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
World Community Day
Friday, November 7 10 AM
St. Mark's UMC

COOKIES FOR PRISON MINISTRY



If you would like to donate cookies for the prison ministry, please deliver them to the Church Office by Sunday, November 30. **COOKIES SHOULD NOT CONTAIN PEANUTS OR PEANUT BUTTER.** Your help is very much appreciated.



WESLEY TOWER BANKS
October 2008 \$70.67

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Our year-to-date total is \$978.36. Empty banks can be picked up as you leave the altar area each Communion Sunday. **AGAIN, THANKS FOR SAVING YOUR CHANGE.**

A Prayer for our Nation by Billy Graham

Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good," but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, Oh god, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. In Jesus' name. Amen!



ZINGO TAPES

Those Zingo tapes are really adding up this year! In October, we received a check for \$152.58 bringing our 2008 total to \$726.44. Thank you for your continued support. And a special thanks to Janet Dickerson for tallying the tapes and taking them to Zingo's.

KIDS IN CHURCH

Three-year-old Reese: "Our Father, who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen.



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

**Sunday, November 23 7:00 P.M.
Richardson Park United Methodist Church**

SOUP & PIE SALE

Sponsored by the Mission Committee

Mark your calendars for our Soup and Pie sale which will be held on Friday, November 21 from 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Orders must be received by Sunday, November 16.

Soup - Vegetable Beef \$6.00/Quart



Pies - Apple, Coconut Custard, Pumpkin \$10.00 Each

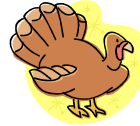
To place an order, call the church office at 654-0961 or fill out the order form in this newsletter and return it to the church. Payment must be received in advance.

Y A R D

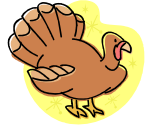


Friday, November 7 9 AM – 3 PM
Saturday, November 8 8 AM – 2 PM

Furniture, Books, Clothing, Knick-knacks, Dishes, Wall Décor and much, more. **COME OUT AND PURCHASE YOUR TREASURES.**



MISSION TREE



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

***A THANK YOU FROM
DR. GORDON TURK***

Thank you for the opportunity to play a concert at your church on the October 19th day of celebration. Please convey my thanks and best wishes to the DE Chapter of the AGO, also. I was delighted to be a part of the RPUMC celebration for the International Year of the Organ and was glad that it could combine with Jay's birthday. The wonderful cake made it all very special. Thanks to you, Terri, Pastor Tom and everyone at RPUMC.

***Do you
a
break
your***



***need
from***

hectic world?

A time of quiet?

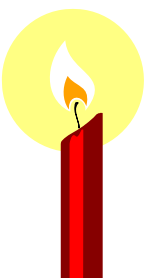
***An opportunity to sense God's
presence?***

***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.***





Richardson Park UMC Youth Group News

The RPUMC Youth Group is working hard to ensure that youth of all ages are ministered to and provided with the tools they need to grow in their relationship with Christ and one another. The youth group meets once a week for meetings on Sunday evenings from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meetings include recreational time, Bible study/lesson time, dinner, music, and prayer time. We also like to supplement weekly meetings with theatrical experiences, bowling nights, hayrides, etc., as appropriate throughout the year. Additionally, we support the God's Little Angel's mission group and attend those activities on Saturdays every six weeks or so, as well participate in at least one mission project of our own during the school year. The youth have three "big" trips that they will participate in this year. One is to the Salvation Army's Camp Ladore in the Pocono Mountains. The weekend will be a retreat focused on learning to be thankful. The second trip will be to Ocean City, MD for the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Youth Rally. Our third will be to Camp Pecometh for another retreat weekend. The youth participate in the weekly worship service by serving as nursery workers, greeters, ushers, acolytes, readers and, occasionally, the sound and video crew. Training was provided to the youth in all of these areas at the beginning of the year. The youth also participate in worship through movement activities, drama, and music throughout the year, as well as put on a fully "youth-led" worship service in the spring. Additionally, there may be an opportunity over the summer for youth to attend a mission trip to Farmington, ME with our friends from Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church.

Schedule for: Greeters, Ushers, Readers, Communion Helpers

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Communion Helpers
Oct. 26	Karlee Boyd	Jen Fitzgerald		
Nov. 2	Rob Boyd	Amanda Graham		Nicole Anderson
Nov. 9	Amanda Graham	Jen Fitzgerald	Brisa Peterson	
Nov. 23	Karlee Boyd	Laura Orth		
Nov. 30	Rob Boyd	Maegin Coverdale		
Dec. 7	Amanda Graham	Kat Mitten	Maria Ott	Melanie Mitten
Dec. 14		Nicole Anderson	Karlee Boyd	
Dec. 21	Rob Boyd	Karlee Boyd		
Dec. 28	Amanda Graham	Mel Mitten		

KIDS' KORNER & GOD'S LITTLE ANGELS

Kristi J. Doughty



We're thankful all year round for the blessings God has given us, and for the opportunity to share God's lessons and love with the children and youth .

Here are the topics for November:

Pre-Kindergarten/K – focusing on Daniel to teach how God watches over us when we're away from home (Daniel and his friends are forced to move to Babylon); God watches over us at school (Daniel and his friends at the King's court); God watches over us when we're scared (Daniel helps the King understand his dream); and God watches over us all the time (God watches over Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego).

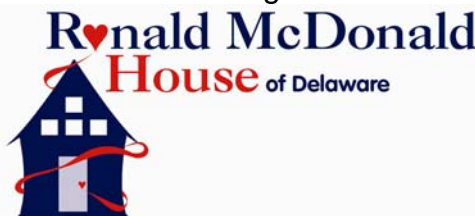
Grades 1-3 – also focusing on the book of Daniel to teach us how God helps us to make the right choices (Daniel refuses to eat tainted food); God helps us stand up for what's right (Daniel's friends refuse to bow to idols); God deserves credit for all good things (Nebuchadnezzar learns to praise God); and We should follow God no matter what happens (God rescues Daniel in the lions' den).

Grades 4-6 – focusing on Proverbs 3: 5-6 what do I do when the pressure's on? Including standing up for my faith (what if I'm the only one saying no?); Not compromising my values (what if saying yes makes me popular?); making God-honoring choices (would Jesus fit in with my friends?); and accepting my faith (what if being a Christian makes me unpopular?).

Grades 7-12 - will continue with "Believe It or Not!" stories from the Bible: Amazing God: Ezekiel's vision (God's glory is beyond our comprehension); Dead bones rise: the valley of dry bones (God alone brings us life); a Marriage with a message: Hosea's marriage (God is faithful); Sight and salvation: Jesus places spit on a blind man (God makes us whole); and fallings and failings: Eutychus' fatal nap (God is full of grace).

GOD'S LITTLE ANGELS

On October 18, 2008 God's Little Angels had a great time cooking up a storm! We made two batches of chocolate chip cookies, lasagna and a delicious chicken casserole for the Ronald McDonald House folks. After sharing a yummy lunch of make-it-yourself pizzas and salad, we delivered the baked goods and items donated by the congregation, as well as items purchased using the donations collected in church totaling \$143.18 (including Beanie babies), to the RM House and got the grand tour. What a wonderful organization to help the families of children receiving care at Al DuPont hospital. We had a nice group of about 18 folks. Thanks to all the children, youth and parents who helped, and special thanks to Sarah Pasmore who generously chose the recipes, bought the ingredients, and even started some of the cooking! Look for our next God's Little Angels mission in December!





MUSIC NOTES

Terri Weaver, Director

What is all Saints Day? The Feast of All Saints is a holy day of the Church honoring all saints, known and unknown. The vigil of the Feast (the eve) has grown up in the US as a festival in itself, All Hallows Eve, or Halloween. While many consider Halloween pagan, as far as the Church is concerned the date is simply the eve of the feast of All Saints. Many customs of Halloween reflect the Christian belief that on the feast's vigils we mock evil because, as Christians, it has no real power over us. Various customs have developed related to Halloween. In the Middle Ages, poor people in the community begged for "soul cakes," and upon receiving these doughnuts, they would agree to pray for departed souls. This is the root of our modern day "trick-or-treat." The custom of masks and costumes developed to mock evil and perhaps confuse the evil spirits by dressing as one of their own. Some Christians visit cemeteries on Halloween, not to practice evil, but to commemorate departed relatives and friends, with picnics and the last flowers of the year. The day after All Saints day is called All Soul's Day, a day to remember and offer prayers on behalf of all of the faithful departed.

History of a favorite hymn for All Saints Day, “Amazing Grace”, by John Newton.¹

He was born in London 1725. His mother, despite fragile health, was devoted to nurturing John's soul. After her death, John went between boarding school and the high seas. He joined the British Navy and deserted. He was flogged. His thoughts were of suicide. Early in 1748, he was rescued by a sea captain who had known John's father. John Newton ultimately became captain of his own ship, one which was used for slave trade.

On a homeward voyage, while he was attempting to steer the ship through a violent storm, he experienced what he was to refer to later as his “great deliverance.” He recorded in his journal that when all seemed lost and the ship would surely sink, he exclaimed, “Lord, have mercy upon us.” Later in his cabin he reflected on what he had said and began to believe that God had addressed him through the storm and that grace had begun to work for him.

For the rest of his life he observed the anniversary of May 10, 1748 as the day of his conversion, a day of humiliation in which he subjected his will to a higher power. “Thro' many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace has bro't me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.” He continued in the slave trade for a time after his conversion; however, he saw to it that the slaves under his care were treated humanely.

¹

His original title for this hymn was not “Amazing Grace” but Faith’s Review and Expectation” based upon his study of 1 Chronicles 17:16-17: “King David...said: ‘ Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? And yet...You have spoken of Your servant’s house for a great while to come, and have regarded me according to the rank of a man of high degree...”.

Below is a forgotten verse of this hymn you might consider singing:

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;
but God, Who called me here below, shall be forever mine.*

Newton met George Whitefield, deacon of the Church of England, and Newton became an enthusiastic disciple.² He met and admired John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. Newton was persistent in becoming a minister. He was ordained by the Bishop of Lincoln. His weekly sermons packed the church and resulted in the needed additions to the church building. Among Newton’s contributions which are still loved and sung today are “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” and “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken,” as well as “Amazing Grace.” These hymns were published by poet William Cowper (Newton met him while in Olney) in 1779. The published book contained 68 pieces by Cowper and 280 by Newton.

In 1780, Newton left Olney to become rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, St. Mary Woolchurch, in London. There he drew large congregations and influenced many, among them William Wilberforce, who would one day become a leader in the campaign for the abolition of slavery. Newton continued to preach until the last year of life. He was blind. He died in London December 21, 1807.

Sources:

1. Then Sings My Soul, by Robert J. Morgan
2. Amazing Grace: The Story of John Newton by Al Rogers

There will be special music to help celebrate this feast day of All Saints Day and God’s “Amazing Grace.” Service time is 10:30 a.m.

Faithfully,
Terri Weaver

"The Trustees' Times"



Kathy Russell, Chair

You know how stores and advertisers are way ahead of the holiday seasons? I saw Halloween decorations in the stores on Labor Day and Christmas decorations before Halloween! One holiday that always seems overshadowed by Christmas and generally overlooked is Thanksgiving. We all know it has something to do with Pilgrims, but it's as if the most important part of Thanksgiving is eating ourselves into oblivion and going out shopping the day after, which everyone knows as Black Friday.

I think we should pay more attention to Thanksgiving. The word itself combines two of the more important words in our vocabulary; thanks and giving. I'd like to take this opportunity to GIVE THANKS to several people who obviously understand the Giving part and we should all be thankful that they do.

Thanks to Steve Miller (Joan Stadelman's son), the church can look to him for all of our lock smith services. He Gives his services and materials to the church for free.

Richard Beane deserves our Thanks for taking care of the church and parsonage lawns by keeping the grass mowed and trimmed without billing the church.

Thank you to Greg Austin (Claire Austin's son) who inspects the church fire extinguishers and will add the kitchen fire protection system. He volunteers and donates his service in honor of his mother.

We are thankful to Mike Phillips (Ruth Phillip's husband) for Giving his time to plow snow around the church every winter.

A special Thanks goes out to Janet Dickerson who tirelessly attends to many details in the church. She Gives her time to set up for Wednesday prayer time every week, manage all the candles for the church, assist the church secretary with countless things, straighten chairs and furniture after cleaning and other activities, program the video displays for Sunday services, take out trash from the church through the week, collect paper for recycling from local area stores and that's just some of the things she gets into.

There are many, many others who are not listed here but are worthy of our Thanks for freely Giving their time and talents for the betterment of our church and worship experience. During this month, take a moment to express your Thanks to someone you know who Gives of themselves for our benefit.

Now, count the number of times the various forms or the words "thanks" and "giving" can be found in this article; multiply it by 100 and it still won't come close to what we would have to spend for the services that are unselfishly offered to the church by this generous group of people. Thank you for all you do!

Have an Enjoyable and Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

UPDATES AT RICHARDSON PARK UMC WINTER PROGRAM

Green Day Comes To RPUMC

Beginning November 3, 2008, Mondays will be our designated "Green Day" at Richardson Park Church. Every Monday, the church office will be closed and most, if not all, the church utilities will be shut down to conserve energy and reduce our environmental footprint. This effort will ultimately help keep the Earth "Green" and also save the church some "\$Green\$". Good stewardship is not limited to simply smart use of our financial resources but wise use of all of creation.

Church Temperature Standards

Another energy conservation method to be implemented this winter is the practice of setting the church thermostats a little lower during the heating season. The agreed upon temperature standards are as follows:

Occupied Church Rooms – Set Manual Thermostat at 68 degrees or less

Unoccupied Church Rooms – Set Manual Thermostat at lowest setting ~55 degrees

Occupied Sanctuary – Automatic Thermostat set at 68 degrees

Unoccupied Sanctuary – Automatic Thermostat will move to no lower than 62 degrees (less temperature swing required in this area to maintain organ tuning and operation)

Every degree the thermostat is set back can save as much as 2% in heating costs. If you are holding a class or sponsoring an event at the church, your help is needed to adhere to these temperature standards and remember to turn back the manual thermostats during cleanup, before leaving and locking up.

Also, you may want to bring a sweater or wear warmer clothing to church on very cold days. Remember, God doesn't care what we wear to church, but God does care that we come to church for Worship and Fellowship.

Do you need a little pick me up sometimes? Need a spiritual lift now and again?

There is a locally based Christian Radio Station, REACH, 89.1 FM that calls itself "radio with a purpose." It plays uplifting praise and prayerful music selections with scripture readings sprinkled in between. It can be a blessing to tune in when you just need a little inspiration to help you through your day. Check it out sometime.

CHRISTMAS ALTAR POINSETTIAS

Seventy red poinsettias have been ordered to be placed on the Altar on Sunday, December 21. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in Memory or Honor of Loved Ones, please return this form to the church office by Monday, December 8. The cost of each poinsettia is \$6.50. A check for the total amount should be included with this order form. Please make your check payable to Richardson Park United Methodist Church, marked "poinsettias." If possible, please pick up your poinsettia after the candlelight service on Wednesday, December 24.

Number of Plants _____

Donor's Name _____

In Memory of
(for those not living) _____

In Honor of
(for those living) _____

In Memory of
And Honor of _____

Check/Amount Enclosed: _____

Shall we deliver your flower to a Church Shut-In? YES ____ NO ____

SOUP & PIE SALE
Sponsored by the Mission Committee

PICK-UP DATE!!
Friday, November 21
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

SOUP - \$6.00 PER QUART

Vegetable Beef _____ Qts. \$ _____

PIES - 10" DEEP DISH - \$10.00

Apple _____ Qty. \$ _____

Coconut Custard _____ Qty. \$ _____

Pumpkin _____ Qty. \$ _____

Total \$ _____

NAME -----

ADDRESS -----

PHONE NO. -----

ALL ORDERS ARE PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Please submit your order by Sunday,
November 16 by contacting:

Ruth Berry at 654-4797
Betty Swain at 838-6044
Church Office at 654-0961

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

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Parsonage Phone: (302) 652-6168 E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org
Tom Pasmore, Pastor



LAY READERS

November 2
November 9
November 16
November 23
November 30

Sath Amara
Brisa Peterson
Ruth Berry
Sandy Swain
Ryan Warfel

ALTAR FLOWERS

November 2	Mary White
At the Cross	Kathy Russell
At the Lectern	Christine Long
November 9	William Farra
At the Cross & Lectern	Mary & Richard Sutor
November 16	John Burke
At the Cross	Jeanne Thomas
November 23	Charlene & Bruce Workman
November 30	Lee Powell



FLOWERS

For the month of November, Ruth Circle is responsible for the flowers.

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

Please submit your articles for the
December Messenger to the church office by
Friday, November 9. Thank you.

*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.*