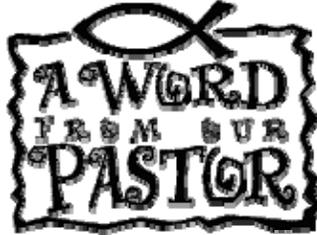


Richardson Park United Methodist Church
11 North Maryland Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19804-1305

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



*"When you see the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God, follow them. Since you have never traveled this way before, they will guide you." Then Joshua told the people, "Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do great wonders among you."
- Joshua 3:3-4a,5 (New Living Translation)*

Happy 2009!! I love the beginning of the New Year for a number of reasons, but one of my favorites is that we get to look back and reminisce about all the neat stuff that has happened to us in the last year. And for me and Sarah, that's a lot of reminiscing. And it's all changed so fast that I have often had to stop for a few minutes just to catch my breath. In the immortal words of Jerry Garcia, "Lately it occurs to me what a long, strange trip it's been."

The problem with looking back, however, is that it often prevents us from looking forward. The great thing about old friends, old memories, old haunts, and old habits is that comfortable feeling we get. All these old things just feel good and seem to "fit right." They give you "warm fuzzies" that all of us love to get. Looking back is fun. But moving forward requires us to look forward. Looking ahead may or may not be fun, but it's vitally important to growing physically, mentally, and spiritually. If we all drove our cars by looking in the rear view mirror the whole time, we wouldn't get very far. Life is all about moving forward, and the Christian faith is all about moving forward with the help of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As much as we love our current life, what we usually forget about when we reminisce is that every old friend was once a complete stranger. Every accomplishment started out as just a dream. Every change started as just a thought. Through prayer, perseverance, and perspiration, we can turn our vision of the future into our reality.

Have you started looking forward into this year? I have a lot of thoughts about 2009. I have visions for my life, my ministry, and my family for the next year. I want to grow my relationship with God through daily prayer and study. I want to deepen my commitment and dependence on the Holy Spirit by stepping out in faith. I want to grow disciples at RPUMC by following the recipe Jesus used on His twelve disciples. I want to model the importance of spiritual disciplines to healthy spirituality, and then teach others how to make them useful in their everyday life. I want my family to continue to walk in the way of the Lord, and I want to live out Joshua 24:15b, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." I want all of my children to love Jesus as much as I do, and I want to love Sarah better and deeper than I ever have in the past. Most of all I want to be part of what Richardson Park will become in the next 12 months. There is so much potential within our church that with some passion, some fire, some love, and lots of reliance on God, we can do amazing things.

So, what do you want to happen in the next year? What do you want God to do in your life, in your family, in your church, in your community, and in your world in the next 12 months? What are you willing to do to make it happen? Now is the time to start thinking about it, and better yet, to start praying about. The future is right in front of us. Don't let 2009 slip past without taking advantage of it . . . *Carpe annum!*

Blessing and Peace to you all and a Happy 2009,



MANY THANKS TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Your thoughtfulness and support are blessings we appreciate all year long. Thank you for the generous Christmas gifts. It is a privilege to be a part of this wonderful church family. We look forward to a blessed and joyous New Year working together to serve God and meet our goals for 2009.

Tom, Harriet Ann, Terri, Beth and Ryan



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

June Victor	1/1
Michael Coverdale	1/2
David Swain	1/2
Paigely Boyd	1/4
Sarah James	1/4
Harold Spedden	1/4
Ken Horne	1/5
Donny Pasmore	1/6
Lee Powell	1/8
Alexis Anderson	1/10
Cindi Beane	1/11
Joseph Watkins	1/12
Stephen Moore	1/13
Kenneth Taylor	1/13
Tiffany Scott	1/14
Victor Levering	1/15
Julie Oakley	1/15
Kiersten Hughart	1/16
Gillian Fader	1/17
Ginger Pettyjohn	1/17
Angela Brown	1/18
Michael Burgos	1/18
Emmanuel Lee	1/18
Chris Cochran	1/19
Jerry Paoli	1/19
Ruth Phillips	1/19
Kristi Doughty	1/23
Phillip Loose	1/24
Christina Dale	1/29
JoAnn Jamison	1/30
Riley Ann Sullivan	1/30

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

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.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



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

Rebecca Circle met on Tuesday, January 6 at the home of Pat Cummings.

Ruth Circle met on Wednesday, January 7 at the home of Mary Alice Bair.

Circle Leaders

Rebekah Circle

Marlene Johnson

Ruth Circle

Barbara Sayles

If you are interested in joining a Circle, please contact Marlene or Barbara for more information.

WESLEY TOWER BANKS

December 2008 \$121.64

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Our total for 2008 is \$1,238.25. Empty banks can be picked up as you leave the altar area each Communion Sunday. AGAIN, THANKS FOR SAVING YOUR CHANGE .



MISSION TREE

On Sundays in January, we are hanging **Snowflakes** on our Mission Tree. Hang a "snowflake" on the tree in honor or memory of someone special to you. Minimum donation is \$1.00. Our tree is located in the Extension.



MUSIC NOTES

Terri Weaver, Director

Chancel Bells

The handbell ensemble has 10 dedicated members who play our three-octave set. One of our members, Barbara Sayles, decided to retire from playing bells. Thank you Barbara for ringing Praise for many years!

Does someone you know play handbells, or would **YOU** like to learn? We rehearse every Thursday evening from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM. We generally play handbells monthly and for special services like Easter. Music knowledge is helpful but not required.

Please contact Terri Weaver for more information.

Chancel Choir

We have voices in soprano, alto, tenor and bass ranges. We could use your voice, too. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings starting at 7:30 PM. We hope to see you there!

Thank You

As your Music Director, I am grateful for a supportive Chancel Choir, Bell Ensemble and gifted musicians who volunteer their time and talents. Plus, I love playing the largest church pipe organ in DE for a warm and gracious congregation. I would like to thank you for your very generous Christmas gift. It is greatly appreciated.

Faithfully, *Terri Weaver*

UPDATE FROM RICHARDSON PARK COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (CAP)

During the period July – December 2008, CAP has continued to focus on its core mission: helping neighbors in crisis. Here are a few numbers, to let you know what CAP has been up to lately:

Pounds of food distributed by the Food Closet	18,000
Adults served by the Food Closet	700
Children served by the Food Closet	320
Number of families assisted by Emergency Funds Programs	50
Hours worked by volunteers	3,200

Our continuous goal is to make client service our Number One Priority. We thank Richardson Park United Methodist Church for your support as we pursue our goal. You are a most valued partner in CAP's important work.

CAP would also like to thank all those involved in coordinating donations to the Food Closet; and for assisting CAP to serve clients with Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets.

CAP is located at 107 S. Maryland Avenue, Wilmington. We are open Monday and Tuesday 10:00am to 3:00pm; Thursday Noon to 6:00pm and Friday 10:00am to 2:00pm. Telephone 302/428-1247. **Please visit!**

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

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Tom Pasmore, Pastor



*Happy New Year To Our
Many Friends*



LAY READERS

January 4
January 11
January 18
January 25

Muriel Campbell
Rob Anderson
Kristi Doughty
Paul Weaver

ALTAR FLOWERS

January 4
January 11
January 18
January 25

Doris Munger-Schippers
Robert Truitt
Sandy and Ed Ide
Gail Eney and
Brian and Tracy Crozier

ALTAR FLOWERS

For the month of January, 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
February Messenger to the church office by
Monday, January 12. 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.*