

Richardson Park United Methodist Church
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Wilmington, DE 19804-1305

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"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose."

- Philippians 2:1-2 (New International Version)

I love this time of year! Even though the days are still a bit too short and the coming of Lent means that I will be fasting, this is the season that I feel most connected to God and God's work in the world. It's an amazing time when we daily seek to repent of our ways and walk a bit closer to the path that God has called us to through the example of Jesus Christ. It's something that I wouldn't miss for the world. For I believe the high holy days of the Christian year begin with Ash Wednesday and end on Easter Sunday. This is what being a Christian is all about, because Lent is about seeking God.

For those of you wondering how I could get so "pumped up" over Lent, let me give you a bit of background: Lent is a forty-day period, excluding Sundays, during which we Christians prepare ourselves spiritually for the commemoration of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. Beginning in the second century, Christians would undergo a brief period of fasting and prayer in preparation for Good Friday and Easter. By the fourth century the period had been extended to forty days to coincide with the forty days that Jesus fasted and prayed in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry (which also coincided with the forty days Moses and Elijah fasted in the Old Testament). The season was originally called "the forty days" but later came to be called Lent - from the Old English, *lengten*, a reference to the lengthening of the days that happens in the springtime. Lent was also the season when Christian converts made their final preparation for receiving their baptism and first communion at the Easter vigil. It was a time of repentance for those who had abandoned the faith during the persecutions. Lent calls us to more intense and intentional spiritual growth during which we remember the message, the life, the suffering and death of Christ.

I hope that you will share my joy and enthusiasm about developing a relationship with our living Lord, Jesus Christ, and so I'm inviting you to do three things this Lent: (1) Be in worship every weekend, (2) Read your Bible daily - I'll be handing out a Lenten reading guide during worship starting on Ash Wednesday, and (3) Fast something as an expression of your faith and identification with Jesus' suffering. I will usually fast from food for one day a week, and also try to give up one of my "comfort foods" like chocolate or soda. Through these spiritual disciplines we, in a small way, share in the journey of Christ from the Hosannas of Palm Sunday, up the Via De la Rosa to Golgotha, onto the Cross, and finally arriving at the empty tomb. Join me in forty days of getting closer to Jesus and closer to God.

May this Lenten season renew your desire and passion for God,

Pastor Tom

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Louise Evelyn	3/1
Hedda Loose	3/5
Morgan Straughn	3/5
Paul McGinnis, Jr.	3/6
Frankie DelCampo	3/7
Janet Dickerson	3/7
Carmen Guelen	3/7
Steven Palmer	3/7
Stephanie Swain	3/7
Kim Cloud	3/10
John DuVall	3/10
Andrew Burgos	3/12
Calvin Brosch	3/13
Susan Eveland	3/15
Josefa Majik	3/15
Donald Painter	3/15
Ruth Carter	3/16
Kevin Cecelia	3/16
James A. Chilcutt	3/18
Victoria Maher	3/29
Tom Beane	3/22
Michael Coverdale	3/23
Austin Painter	3/23
Sue Cummings	3/25
J. Robert Ashton	3/30

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

ZINGO



TAPES

Unsung Hero Award

The Zingo receipt rebate program has been in effect for many years and, as you probably know, contributes hundreds of dollars to our General Fund each year. But...do you know who the "unsung hero" is behind the process to gather the receipts received from our congregational members and friends? **LILLIAN SIMMONS!** Lillian tirelessly gathers and sorts the thousands of receipts received each year, staples them in groups of ten for easy counting, and then passes them on to the counters. Thanks, Mrs. Simmons, for all you do to make this program such a great success!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



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

Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle	Mon. March 16 7:30 p.m. Brief meeting after Upper Room Meal
Ruth Circle	Wed., March 4 10:00 a.m. Church Lounge

UPPER ROOM MEAL

The UMW again will sponsor "The Upper Room Meal" on Monday, March 16 at 6:00 p.m. Please see one of the Circle leaders to sign up. Reservations and a \$6.00 fee must be received by Monday, March 9. Men and women are invited to join us for this devotional meal. This is a wonderful opportunity to become quiet and reflect once again toward the Easter season as we celebrate Jesus' victory over the grave.

Pat Cummings, President
United Methodist Women

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.

Health Kits for Migrant Farm Workers

Each year, our church participates in this much needed project of Church Women United. It is not too soon to begin purchasing items for health kits for the Delmarva Rural Ministries – they need all the kits we can collect.

Each health kit should contain:

1 toothbrush	1 new washcloth
1 4 oz. tube of toothpaste	1 new bath towel
1 sturdy comb	1 4 oz. bar of soap
1 deodorant	1 shampoo

Wrap the above items in the bath towel and tie with ribbon or a pair of shoelaces.

Please bring your kits to the church office or give to Mary Alice Bair by Sunday, March 29.

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Each Wednesday at Noon

March 4	Peniel UMC
March 11	Calvary Presbyterian
March 18	Richardson Park UMC
March 25	St. Matthew's
April 1	Wilmington Church of the Brethren
April 8	St. James Episcopal

Please join the noon prayer services during Lent followed by lunch. Each church will provide soup. You are welcome to bring a sandwich or salad

WESLEY TOWER BANKS

February 2009 \$66.85

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Our year-to-date total is \$140.55. 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 March, we are hanging **Shamrocks** on our Mission Tree. Hang a "shamrock" on the tree in honor or memory of someone special to you. Minimum donation is \$1.00. In March, our Mission tree will be located in the Extension.

KOINONIA YARD SALE

March 27 – March 28

Friday, March 27	9 AM – 3 PM
Saturday, March 28	8 AM – 2 PM

If you would like to donate items for the yard sale, please make arrangements to have them picked up by calling the church office at 654-0961.

Also, we need help on Monday, March 23 at 9:00 AM to help set up the tables and on Saturday, March 28 at 2:00 PM to clean up. Thanks to everyone for your contributions, time and support for this very important project.



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 8.**

TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR.

UPDATE FROM RICHARDSON PARK COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

A Very Special New Arrival

Please join the crew at CAP in welcoming Oliver Philip McArdle, who was born on January 31, 2009, weighing in at 9 pounds 6 ounces, and measuring 21.5 inches in length. Oliver's mother, CAP's Executive Director Louise Whitehead, is thrilled to be a brand new mom. She is doing very well, as are Baby Oliver and Hubby Chris McArdle.

Thanks to.....

CAP wishes to acknowledge a recent major gift from The Safeway Foundation. We were very happy to receive this corporate support.

FOOD FOR CAP

Don't forget to bring CAP the first Sunday of each month. They are in need of canned meats and stews, peanut butter and jelly, hot & cold cereals, tuna, baked beans, canned fruit.



Thank you to all those at Richardson Park United Methodist Church for their cards and other expressions of sympathy regarding the passing of our son, David.

A special thanks to Pastor Tom who was so understanding and such a help during our time of need.

With love and gratitude,
Dot and Dave Goss

Hi everybody! It seems hard to believe it's March! In like a lion,
Lamb... have the courage of a lion to come to RPUMC and learn
Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God...



out like a
about the ultimate sacrifice made by

Here are the topics for March:

Pre-Kindergarten/K - This month we will be learning from parables and events of Jesus' life taken from the books of Mark and Luke. We will start off by studying the good Samaritan and move into the stories of Jesus' healings.

Grades 1-3 - We will glimpse Jesus' precious last days on earth. We will follow him as he spends time with friends and teaches them the most important lessons: pointing people to God; making our worship genuine; showing God's love; understanding our feelings; and showing the truth about God. We will use bible readings from the gospels of John, Matthew and Mark. We also will utilize role-play, flannel board, and class discussions. There also will be a new song for us to learn! Blessings from Ms. Marlene

Grades 4 - 6 - focusing on Colossians 1:18 and Relationships: Why Can't I Sleep in instead of going to church? Why do I have to go? Encountering God in Community; Why is Church so long? Reasons for the Components of Church; Why are there so many different Churches? The Church Body; and What am I supposed to do at Church? The Purpose of Church. We'll also begin to look at faith questions and sin.

Grades 7 - 12 will focus on building character; overcoming obstacles; finding courage; and answered prayers.



A SPECIAL PRAYER

Below is a version of the Lord's prayer written by the following students in 4th through 6th grades:
Ben Brindle, Volena Sease, Steven Ott, Emmanuel Lee, Zach Farley and Mailyn Klein

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Savior God
Holy Be Your Name
The Kingdom Come
Your Dreams Come True
Let Earth and Heaven Be One
Fill Me With Your Soul
Forgive Us Of Our Sins
As We Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us
Guide Us From Evil
Amen - Yahoo**



MUSIC NOTES

Terri Weaver, Director

RPUMC is making the news in a two publications. One is The American Organist (TAO) January 2009 issues and one in the Arts and Worship magazine for Methodist churches.

The TAO magazine has a picture of the 100-pound vanilla and chocolate cake we shared in fellowship that was shaped like the organ console. It was created by Miki Chelton of Lucy Belle Cake Designs. The cake was used to celebrate Jay Cummings 80th birthday on October 19, 2009 and a successful concert for International Year of the Organ featuring Dr. Gordon Turk. This magazine is delivered to hundreds of organists throughout the United States in all 50 states.

The second magazine, is a Worship and Arts magazine for music, worship and arts staff members who plan worship services in the Methodist Church. (FUMMWA) The magazine features articles on how churches use : "The Arts" in their church and in services. RPUMC will be featured in an upcoming edition with pictures featuring Dr. Turk, Jay and the famous console cake.

FYI... Miki Chelton, the chef who created the cake, told me their church was celebrating an anniversary of her church where she made an exact replica of their organ console, too. However, it was a much smaller replica and not 100 pounds! Terri met Miki at a weeklong workshop for FUMMWA in Wilmington, DE in August 2008.

Additional Piano

A FREE piano was donated to RPUMC by The Mary Campbell Center located in Wilmington, DE. We are grateful to this facility for their generosity. This health facility has residents that are disabled. The facility "Provides Home and Heart" to the disabled. If you have chance....visit their website:

www.marycampbellcenter.org. THANKS!

A special thanks to the BMG for delivering the new piano to the Extension of the church building.

Faithfully, Terri Weaver

YOUTH EVENTS - MARCH

Sunday, March 1	5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Youth Group - Service and Faithful Friends (FF) Campaign
Sunday, March 8	11:30 AM	Sponsor Pancake Breakfast FF Campaign Begins Music rehearsal?
Sunday, March 15	5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Youth Service Preparation
Saturday, March 21	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Indoor Pool Party – Pike Creek Club
Sunday, March 22	5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	FF Campaign Ends Youth Service Preparation
Saturday, March 28	10:00 AM – Noon	Youth Service Rehearsal
Sunday March 29	9:30 AM	Youth Sunday - Practice Sponsor Bake Sale after Worship

ALTAR EASTER LILIES

If you would like to place a lily on the Altar for Easter, please return this form to the church office by Monday, March 30. Cost of each plant is \$8.00. Please make your check payable to Richardson Park United Methodist Church and mark "Easter Lilies" on the memo line.

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 ____

Please arrange to pick up your flowers immediately after the Easter worship service if they are not being delivered to a shut-in. Thank you.

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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“THE MESSENGER” MARCH 2009

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Office Phone: (302) 654-0961 Office Hours: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM M-F FAX #: (302) 655-7446
Parsonage Phone: (302) 652-6168 E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org
Tom Pasmore, Pastor



LAY READERS

March 1	Sandy Swain
March 8	Anna Mae Shewbrooks
March 15	Pat Cummings
March 22	Kathryn Mitten
March 29	Kathy Russell

ALTAR FLOWERS

March 1	Tony and Glenda Donnelly
At the Cross	Bettie Smith
March 8	Jay and Pat Cummings
March 15	Joan Stadelman
March 22	Available
March 29	Carolyn Swain

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

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

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Please submit your articles for the
April Messenger to the church office by
Wednesday, March 11. 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.*