

Richardson Park United Methodist Church
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That's why I decided not to make another visit that could only be painful to both of us. If by merely showing up I would put you in an embarrassingly painful position, how would you then be free to cheer and refresh me? That was my reason for writing a letter instead of coming—so I wouldn't have to spend a miserable time disappointing the very friends I had looked forward to cheering me up. I was convinced at the time I wrote it that what was best for me was also best for you. As it turned out, there was pain enough just in writing that letter, more tears than ink on the parchment. But I didn't write it to cause pain; I wrote it so you would know how much I care—oh, more than care—love you!

- 2nd Corinthians 2:1-4 (the Message)

I looked out my window this morning and it was raining. Not just a heavy dampness or a light mist, but a full out Southern Baptist downpour. It was raining so hard that anyone being received into the church this morning would have been baptized by immersion. I had to put up my umbrella and don my raincoat just to keep from getting soaked on my way over to church from home. Monsoon season seems to have hit Delaware. To be truthful, I do not like rainy days. I do not like getting wet. I do not like having to drag a coat or umbrella with me wherever I go. I do not like green eggs and ham, oh, wait that's an entirely different story . . . In the immortal words of the late, great Karen Carpenter, "Rainy days and Mondays always get me down."

As I have reflected on my gloomy, dismal impression of rainy days, two important realizations have occurred to me. First, in the immortal words of the great John Fogerty, "As long as I remember, the rain's been coming down," and as far as I can tell the rain will keep coming down well into the future. I have no control over whether it's sunny or rainy. Jumping up and down and crying out to God about the unfairness of rainy days in my life will not change the weather. All I can do is control what I have control over: my

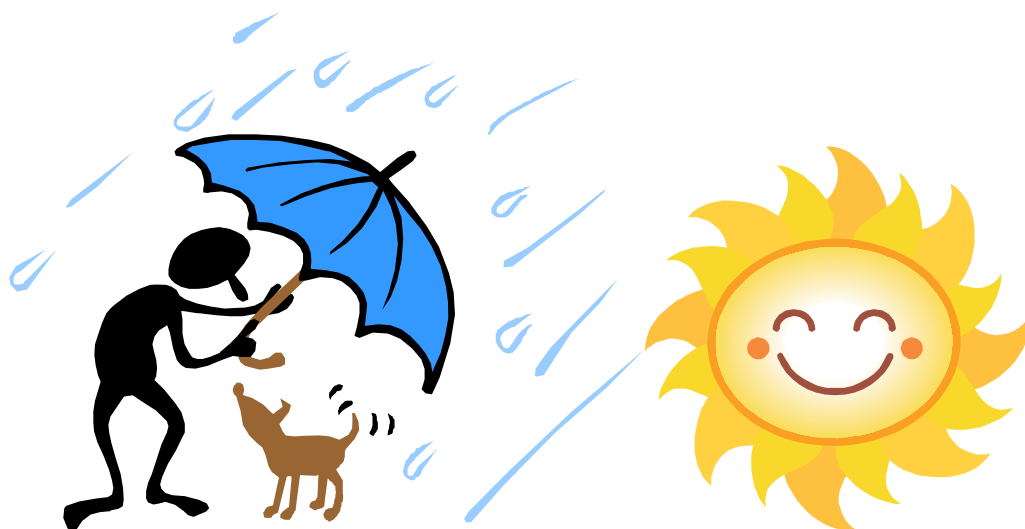
own behavior. Feelings are what they are, and I will probably never like rainy days, but I don't have to mope around or act miserable just because it's raining. I can choose to embrace life and live it to its fullest even in the midst of a deluge. In the immortal words of the late, great Reinhold Niebuhr, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference."

The second realization is just as important as the first. In my own not so immortal words, "Just because something is painful doesn't mean that it is bad or wrong, and just because something feels good doesn't make it right." We as a culture have gotten caught up in this idea that pleasure equates to correctness. The better something feels the more right it must be. There is nothing more toxic to society than an understanding of life that seeks to maximize pleasure. Philosophers call this way of thinking Hedonism, and it can be extremely self-destructive. It privileges oneself over others. It is constantly seeking the next "high." It denies the reality that pain is as much a part of life as pleasure is. These teachings are in direct opposition to what the New Testament says life is all about. In the immortal words of our Savior, Jesus the Christ, "Anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." The pathway to God includes both pain and pleasure. It's when we seek to live a God-centered life that we realize Jesus uses both good and bad experiences in our lives to call us closer to him. Without the rain, nothing would grow and the earth would be devoid of life. As much as I dislike rainy days, I know they are vital and necessary to the sustenance of God's creation.

I leave you this month with the immortal words of one of my favorite authors, Anonymous, "Into every life a little rain must fall."

Blessing and Peace to you all and try to stay dry,

Pastor Tom



SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY



At a special service on **Sunday, May 3**, young people from four area United Methodist churches will be **confirmed** at a joint celebration at **Asbury United Methodist Church at 3:00 pm**. Our Director of Connectional Ministries, Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball will lead us. We are very excited that one of our young people, **Amanda Graham**, will be among those confirmed that day. In addition to the joint service, we will recognize her here at R.P.U.M.C. during morning worship on Sunday, May 10.

When it comes time to change the calendar to **June**, we also will be changing our schedule. From **June – August**, we will have **Morning Worship and Children’s Sunday School at 10:00 am**. The **Wesley Sunday School Class** will continue to meet at **9:00 am**.



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!!



We invite you to 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. Please 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 May 31 Worship Service.

SAFE SANCTUARY

The SAFE sanctuary team will meet in the Lounge on Thursday, May 7 at 6:00 PM. The meeting will focus on the implementation of SAFE sanctuaries in our Bible school program. More information will be available as we move forward.



ECOLOGY CORNER

Thanks to all who have been recycling their newspapers, junk mail, etc., in our Abitibi paper retriever. Our latest check totaled \$21.45 for 4,823.23 pounds collected. The best news is we saved a total of 7.55 cubic yards of landfill space in March! Great job everyone!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Courtney Burke	May 1
Claudia McFarland	May 1
Brian Panaccione	May 2
Carolyn Nafzinger	May 3
Christopher Doughty	May 4
Tara Sheridan	May 4
Joyce Toy	May 4
Muriel Campbell	May 5
Virginia Cohee	May 6
Katlyn Meadows	May 6
Jacob Gommer	May 6
Johnathan Gommer	May 6
Mary Ann Atkinson	May 7
Destiny Dale	May 7
Zachary Farley	May 7
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 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
Billy Bentley	May 17
Katie Chambers	May 17
Allison Perugini	May 17
Maria Ott	May 18
Robert McFarland	May 20
Karlee Boyd	May 23
Leonard Moore	May 23
Brenda Tucker	May 26
Terri Weaver	May 26
Ken Carter	May 28
Cameron Przywara	May 29
Jimmie Focht	May 30
Peter Davis	May 31

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

Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle Mon., May 4 6:00 PM
Dinner – Hunter's Den

Ruth Circle Wed., May 6 10:00 AM
Church Lounge

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.

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.



WESLEY TOWER BANKS

March 2009 \$140.38
April 2009 \$110.07

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Our year-to-date total is \$391.00. 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 May, we are 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.

FOOD FOR CAP

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



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Mission Minute

Covered-Dish Luncheon - Mission Presentation Sunday, May 3

Lewes Presbyterian Church has been sending mission teams to Kananga II, Democratic Republic of the Congo since 2005. Grier and Jeannine White were members of the first team and Jeannine returned again in 2008. She grew up in Richardson Park UMC and is the daughter of Pat and Jay Cummings. The Mission Committee is pleased to host Grier and Jeannine at a covered-dish luncheon on Sunday, May 3 immediately following the worship service. We hope that you will join us for this informative presentation by Grier and Jeannine.



Thank you for your expressions of sympathy after the passing of my mother, Anna Crowe. A special note of thanks to Rev. Tom Pasmore and to the United Methodist Women for preparing the lovely luncheon we enjoyed after the funeral service. The mission of RPUMC and personal relationships were very important to my mother, as they are to Bob and me.

In Love, Faith, and Friendship,
Phyllis Thomas



CHANCEL CHOIR/ BELLS **Summer Schedule**

The Chancel Choir will sing the first Sunday in July and August. Practice will be held at 9:30 a.m. on these Sundays.

Covered-Dish Supper **Thursday, June 4 6 PM**

All members, past and present, of the Bells and Chancel Choir are invited to attend. Bring your families. A brief rehearsal will follow the meal.

SUMMER WORSHIP

June 7 - August 30
10 :00 AM

REQUEST FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

If you drop things off in the church office, would you please put a note on the package so that we may insure that it gets to the proper person or place. Thank you so much for your help. *Harriet-Ann*

KIDS CAFÉ

Kids Café is drawing to a close for the year...but what a wonderful year it has been! With the guidance of their teacher, Marlene Johnson, and our staff of dedicated tutors, the children have enjoyed fun, food and fellowship while mastering word games and math problems along with continuing to improve their reading aloud and reading comprehension skills. And a special thanks to our Kitchen Crew for providing delicious meals to all participants. Our last session is scheduled for Thursday, May 14. It should be a fun-filled afternoon!!!



Kids Korner & God's Little Angels

Hi everyone! It's May and summer is very near! Take some time to come to Sunday School and share some fun while learning - - there's also lots to do with God's Little Angels, so dust off your garden tools!

PreK - K

Our class will be studying about Jesus' days after the resurrection. Then, we will focus on learning about the Holy Spirit: Who gave us the Holy spirit? What does the Holy spirit do? How can I use the Holy Spirit to be more like Jesus?

Grades 1 - 3

During the month of May, we will learn that: God calls people to be workers for him; we can tell people about Jesus wherever we are; we can work together to tell others about Jesus; God takes care of those who follow him.

We will role-play Paul's journeys to find that God's helpers can be any age. Our lessons are taken from the Bible books of Galatians and Acts.

Blessings from Ms. Marlene

Grades 4 - 6

We'll study Colossians 3:11 and begin to examine choices - what really matters? Is being right what matters? (being kind); Is being the best what matters? (being faithful); Is being liked what matters? (focusing on God's opinion); and Is being happy what matters? (being grateful and content).

Grades 7 - 12

We'll be talking about humility - what is it and how do we adopt an attitude of humility; daring to believe - what do I believe in? show the distinguishing mark of a Christian - love one another! And peace - how do I get some of that? We'll also play some fun games.

God's Little Angels will be continuing with its annual project of planting in the Wesley Tower Garden. We would love to have your help in this important project! Monetary and flower donations are also greatly appreciated. Look for details and announcements or call the church office (654-0961) and leave a message for Kristi.



COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (CAP)

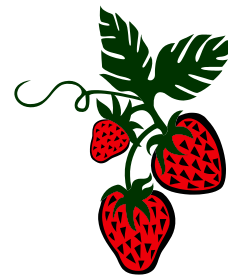
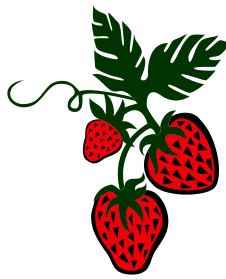
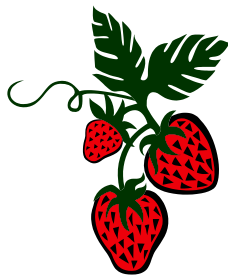
With sadness, CAP's board of directors announces the June 2009 departure of the agency's Executive Director, Louise Whitehead, whose husband has been transferred to Switzerland by the DuPont Company. This unhappy (for us) event means that Louise's position at CAP is open, and we are actively recruiting her replacement. If you are interested in the position, please email your resume or questions to rpcap107@verizon.net, or call CAP at 302/428-1247. We seek a resourceful individual who will be responsible for supervision, communications, fundraising, and development. The Executive Director is supported by the board of directors, a capable volunteer staff, and one other paid employee. Hours are part-time and flexible; compensation is modest with potential for growth. Many types of experience will be considered, but applicants must have basic computer skills: word, spreadsheet, and internet.

YOUTH EVENTS – MAY

Saturday, May 2	5:30 PM	Youth Group
Sunday, May 17	5:00 PM	Kickball Night Red Clay Presbyterian
Sunday, May 24	5:30 PM	Youth Group
Sunday, May 31	10:30 AM	Graduation Sunday

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 3 11:30 AM	MISSION COVERED-DISH LUNCHEON <i>Jeannine and Grier White</i> Presentation on Congo Missions from Lewes Presbyterian Church
SATURDAY, JUNE 6	ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL Calvary Presbyterian Church
JUNE 28-JULY 2	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT RPUMC



CAP STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 6, 2009

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Rain or Shine

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Boxwood Rd. and Maryland Ave. (Rt. 4)

Richardson Park

Come and Join Us!

- Flea market tables available: \$15.00 to rent
- Luncheon served
- Fresh berries by the quart
- Strawberry shortcake
- CAP flea market tables – donations appreciated
- Baked goods table – donations needed
- Help wanted

All are welcome and admission is free.

Contact Sandy Ide at 798-8664 to volunteer, donate,
rent a table, or ask questions.

**TO BENEFIT THE
RICHARDSON PARK COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (CAP)**



MUSIC NOTES

Terri Weaver, Director

A version of **The Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah, by George Frederick Handel** (1685-1759), was presented by the Chancel Bells on Easter Sunday. The history of this oratorio is very interesting and listed below are a few facts I thought you may want to know.

What is an oratorio? Bibles were expensive and most people were uneducated, so oratorios were created to take the text of the Bible and put it to music.

On what text of the Bible is this based? The Oratorio dramatizes the two events of Christ. First, when he appeared as the Lamb of God for the sin of the world (John 1:29), and second, when he shall again appear to set up on earth the Kingdom of his Father and to reign at Jerusalem over a world at peace (Acts 1:11; 3:19-21; Rev. 1:7; Jer. 3:17; Luke 1:32-33). But the Hallelujah Chorus is drawn from Rev. 19:6, 16 and chapter 11:15.

Why did Handel write this oratorio? While in London, Handel suffered a stroke (1737) and was losing his sight in one eye. Paralysis in his right arm prevented him from performing. He lost a fortune in writing music for operas that were not successful. He drove himself relentlessly to recover from one failure after another, and finally his health began to fail. By 1741, he was swimming in debt. It seemed certain he would land in debtor's prison.

Who influenced him to compose? A wealthy friend, Charles Jensen, gave Handel a libretto based on the life of Christ taken entirely from the bible. He also received a commission from a Dublin charity to compose a work for a benefit performance.

How long did it take Handel to compose this oratorio? Handel set to work composing on August 22 in his little house on Brook Street in London. He grew so absorbed in the work that he rarely left his room, hardly stopping to eat. Within six days, part one was completed. In nine days more, he had finished part two, and in another six, part three. The orchestration was completed in another two days. In all, 260 pages of manuscript were filled in the remarkably short time of 24 days. Handel never left his house for those three weeks. A friend who visited him as he composed found him sobbing with intense emotions. Later, as Handel groped for words to describe what he had experienced, he was quoted as saying "whether I was in the body or out of my body when I wrote it I know not."

How did the Hallelujah Chorus portion affect Handel? The composer, tears streaming down his face, turns to his servant and cries out, **“I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself.”** George Frederic Handel had just finished writing a movement that would take its place in history as the Hallelujah Chorus.

Tell me about the performance of Messiah... Messiah premiered on April 13, 1742 as a charitable benefit, raising 400 pounds and freeing 142 men from debtor's prison. A year later, Handel staged it in London. Controversy from the Church of England continued to plague Handel, yet the King of England attended the performance. As the first notes of the triumphant Hallelujah Chorus rang out, King George rose. Following the royal protocol, the entire audience stood, too, initiating a tradition that still exists today. Everyone stands when the Hallelujah Chorus is presented.

Handel's last days... Days before Handel died, he expressed his desire to die on Good Friday, “in the hopes of meeting his good God, his sweet Lord and Savior, on the day of his Resurrection.” He lived until the morning of Good Saturday, April 14, 1759. His death came only eight days after his final performance, where he had conducted his masterpiece, Messiah. He was buried in Westminster Abbey and left his sizeable estate to his niece, who lived in Germany.

(From Spiritual Lives of Great Composers by Patrick Cavanaugh)

The Chancel Bells version of this magnificent work was presented as a Prelude on Easter morning 2009. The full choir rehearsed this piece weekly since October to present it to the congregation praising the Glory of God. As their director, I want to thank them for their hard work. Personally, I want to continue the tradition and stand to applaud their efforts. Well done!

Bells and Choir Rehearsals - The Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells rehearsals will continue until the first week of June. Perhaps you thought of joining us? We would love to have you! Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings – Bells at 6:30 p.m. and Choir at 7:30 p.m.

Summer Music – During the summer months, special music is prepared for the Offertories or Preludes during the 10:00 a.m. worship time. If you thought about sharing your joy and love for music, it is a great way to help share your love of Christ, too! Please give me a call.

Faithfully,

Terri Weaver

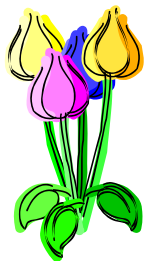
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“THE MESSENGER” MAY 2009

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Tom Pasmore, Pastor



LAY READERS

May 3	Lillian Simmons
May 10	Kathy Russell
May 17	Brisa Peterson
May 24	Kristi Doughty
May 31	Bettie Smith

ALTAR FLOWERS

May 3	Betty and Marvin Swain
May 10	Joyce and Jerry Toy
At the Cross	Joyce and Jerry Toy
May 17	Mary Alice Bair
May 24	Eve Thomas
May 31	Ginger Pettyjohn

ALTAR FLOWERS

For the month of May, 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
June Messenger to the church office by Tuesday,
May 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.*