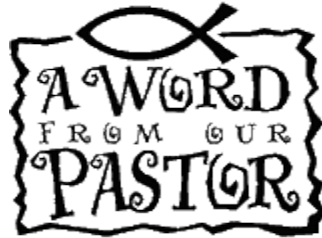


Richardson Park United Methodist Church
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Forget what happened long ago! Don't think about the past. I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it? I have put roads in deserts, streams in thirsty lands. Every wild animal honors me, even jackals and owls. I provide water in deserts and streams in thirsty lands for my chosen people. I made them my own nation, so they would praise me.

- Isaiah 43:18-21 (Contemporary English Version)

As most of you already know, Sarah, the kids, and I finished the year on a wonderful trip to Disney World with Sarah's family. Besides spending a *large* amount of quality time with her extended family (Sarah would say it was a *small* amount), we also were able to enjoy the rides, the shows, and the food that makes Disney the incredible experience that it is. This trip also has some very exciting personal elements that will be etched in our minds for years to come. It is the kind of stuff that family legends are made from. First, another family walked off with our stroller by accident and took it home with them to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (It's pretty sad when your stroller is more 'well traveled' than you are.) Fortunately, we will be getting it and our bags back. And secondly, when you combine the excitement of Disney with some sugar and mix vigorously inside a five-year-old boy, the result is pure energy. And the five-year-old boy will have a very difficult time standing still. This is the state in which Donny spent most of his trip. In fact, the official motto of our Disney vacation, as selected by Sarah's family, was, "Where's Donny?" because we seemed to be looking for him all the time. It's pretty amazing that he never actually got lost with all the running, bouncing, jumping, and moving that he was doing. If we ever need to develop a renewable energy source to help with the church's utility bills, I have one that lives with me. He's amazing.

While the kids were busy being kids and adults were busy being Grumpy (he's the sixth dwarf in case you wondered), I was able to spend some time reflecting on the theology of Disney. (I know that sounds a bit dull, but it's what we pastors do when we are out and about.) In their shows and attractions, Disney spends a lot of time talking about

the power of dreams and imagination. I believe that this is a very good thing. We don't do enough of that in church or in mainstream society. However, Disney doesn't do a good job of connecting imagination or dreams to their ultimate source, God, which leaves me feeling like they are peddling an empty promise. For example, during the big fireworks display on New Year's Eve, right before the grand finale, they played the song *Let There Be Peace on Earth (and Let It Begin with Me)*. It was such a beautiful vision that it almost brought me to tears. Unfortunately, without God at the center of that vision, I don't believe that peace is possible. We are just not capable of it. (Even with God at the center, it has still been a big challenge.) Disney invites us to seek the good in life without the connection to Jesus who makes it all possible. Corruptible humanity cannot do this on its own. We need Jesus!

So, my friends, keep on dreaming. Keep on dreaming of a world that is Christ centered and Kingdom filled. Keep dreaming of a world of peace and justice and love and hope and joy and, through those dreams and your imagination, God can change the world through us.

Blessings and Peace to you all and a Happy 2010,

Pastor Tom



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 2010.

Tom, Harriet Ann, 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
Tiffany Scott	1/14
Julie Oakley	1/15
Kiersten Hughart	1/16
Gillian Fader	1/17
Ginger Pettyjohn	1/17
Michael Burgos	1/18
Emmanuel Lee	1/18
Ruth Phillips	1/19
Tony Donnelly	1/20
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

We would like to extend a sincere "thank you" to our church family and community friends for your generous support of the Zingo register receipt rebate program in 2009. Our total rebate for the year was an amazing \$1,063.93!!!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



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

Rebekah Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 5, 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge.

Ruth Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 6, 10:00 a.m. in the Lounge.

Circle Leaders

Rebekah Circle **Marlene Johnson**

Ruth Circle **Joan Stadelman**

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

WESLEY TOWER BANKS

December 2009 \$74.94

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Our total for 2009 is \$1,160.61. 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.

KIDS' KORNER



The excitement of Christmas and the New Year has passed, but there is a lot to look forward to in Sunday School and our God's Little Angels project coming up.

PreK/K and Grades 1 thru 3 will be working on some exciting new travels through the Bible. Please come and join us.

Grades 4 thru 8 will be starting a new Grapple Unit on the Bible – Fact or Fiction? They will be studying Hebrews 4:12 – Did God Really Write the Bible? (All scripture is inspired by God.) How Do I Know if the Bible is True? (The Bible is alive and powerful.) How Is the Bible Different from Other Books? (The Bible is a message from God.) Why Should the Bible Matter to Me? (The Bible is a map to guide your life.)

Grades 9 thru 12 are beginning an interesting set of new materials called “Guy Talk, Girl Talk” focusing on key questions that girls and guys face, looking at issues from each of their perspectives such as making wise decisions, emotions, expectations, and family. Remember that high school graduates are also welcome to attend class – the more youth and young folks that attend, the more dynamic our discussions will be!

GOD'S LITTLE ANGELS

Come join us on Sunday, February 7 at 2:00 p.m. – we'll meet at the church and leave for the Masonic Home at 2:30 p.m. to sing and deliver Valentines. Look for more details in the worship bulletins in the next few weeks and in the February Messenger.



RICHARDSON PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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WILMINGTON, DE 19804-1305

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“THE MESSENGER” JANUARY 2010

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Tom Pasmore, Pastor



*Happy New Year To Our
Many Friends*

LAY READERS

January 3	Rob Anderson
January 10	Mary Ann Atkinson
January 17	Joan Stadelman
January 24	Yvonne Mitten
January 31	Chris Doughty

ALTAR FLOWERS

January 3	Doris Munger-Schippers
January 10	Robert Truitt
January 17	Sandy and Ed Ide
January 24	Gail Eney and Brian and Tracy Crozier
January 31	Dennis & Marlene Johnson

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 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.*