

Richardson Park United Methodist Church
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He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- Mark 14:37-38 (New Revised Standard Version)

It's early in the year and I already feel behind. Just when I think that I have all my ducks in a row, they start quacking and break ranks. I used to say that this scramble to stay current with what was going on around me was like herding cats, but I've found a new analogy that fits the situation perfectly. It's like trying to get the kids dressed for church. Just as we get Bethany's coat on, Donny is running away wanting to play tag with someone. Right as we are getting Sammy's socks and shoes on, Bethany and Donny have found the washable markers and are coloring each other. As I'm putting on Donny's coat, Sammy is screaming at Bethany who is trying to pick him up by his head. The cartoon the *Family Circus* has nothing on us. I'm just waiting for the day we mistakenly dress the dog and take her to church instead of one of the kids. Don't laugh too hard, it could happen. (I know my church family would be gracious enough to just snicker a little and roll their eyes if it ever did.)

But isn't that just how life is now a days? As we Americans have purchased washing machines, microwave ovens, S'wiffer's, and dishwashers, we have eliminated most of the work that we do around the house each day. As we have become accustomed to email and the cell phone, we have been freed from both the home and the office. But what have we done with all the extra time that we have saved? We filled it up with other "more important" stuff. Now instead of being exhausted from all the manual labor that we perform each day, we are exhausted from all the running that we end up doing instead. I have to admit, the busier I become, the less I feel like I've accomplished. It's a real life paradox. So what can we do about it? How do we stop the merry-go-round of madness and give ourselves a breather? The best advice that I can give is strategic use of the word "NO." It has the amazing ability to free one up from either requests or obligations. However, one should consider carefully before invoking this powerful timesaver. The key to success in this arena is moderation and focus. My second key recommendation is to use the 3 "P's"; prioritization, prioritization, prioritization. Know what's most important to you. Give up some of the stuff that isn't that important. I know that this is easier said than done. Something that may help is a schedule, I know it's a royal pain to have to carry around but it really saves headaches down the road. It avoids over-scheduling, double-scheduling, and a host of other time management *faux pas*. You'll either thank me later for this recommendation or want to strangle me for pointing out the obvious. Finally, know your family's limits and your own personal limits. Overbooking yourself will not cause you to get more done, but it is guaranteed to cause frustration, irritation, and burnout. Even Jesus knew when to retreat to a lonely place to pray and rest and rejuvenate. As the old slogan goes, "You deserve a break today." Please, try to give yourself one.

Now before you start calling me a hypocrite, know that I try to live by these words. (Notice I said try.) What works for me is reading a daily devotional first thing in the morning (like the Upper Room which has been a big hit around our house) and then spending roughly 20 minutes of prayer through meditation or journaling or walking with God. These simple spiritual activities have the tendency to make every day better, no matter how crazy they get. Staying spiritually fit really helps when we get stressed either physically or emotionally. Starting the day with God has made all the difference and allowed me to survive the ordination process, preparation for church, meeting after meeting, and spending quality time with the family. Use this Lenten period to reconnect if you've lost touch with God. Use it to deepen your faith and grow in your spiritual walk. Use it to prepare for the glory of Easter. Use it to remind yourself that it's OK to slow down, and even stop and smell the roses once in awhile. Use it to reflect on the brokenness in our lives and in our world. Remember, the journey is only worth taking if the trip itself is part of the joy.

Blessing and Peace to you all,

Pastor Tom

PS Don't forget to carry your piece of broken glass with you as we journey through Lent as a little reminder to focus on God's grace at work in our world.

RICHARDSON PARK U.M.C.

Invites you to share the journey toward Easter.



PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 28 - 10:30 AM

HOLY THURSDAY - SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Thursday, April 1 - 7:00 PM

Richardson Park United Methodist Church

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, April 2 - Noon

Peniel United Methodist Church

HOLY SATURDAY SERVICE

Saturday, April 3 - 4:00 PM

Worship and Meal

Richardson Park United Methodist Church

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, April 4

6:30 AM Sunrise Service at St. James Episcopal Church

7:30 AM Easter Breakfast at Calvary Presbyterian Church

10:30 AM Worship Service at Richardson Park United Methodist Church

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



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
Helen Murphey	3/30

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

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES Each Wednesday at Noon

March 3	St. James Episcopal
March 10	Calvary Presbyterian
March 17	TBD
March 24	Wilmington Church of the Brethren

Please join the noon prayer services during Lent followed by a light lunch of soup and sandwiches.



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 14.**

TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR.

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 February 2010 \$98.58

Although the Wesley Tower was completed in 2007, the money collected in the banks each month is used to replace moneys borrowed for the project from the Endowment Fund. It is important that we put back the money in this fund so that we can use it for future projects. So, thanks for bringing your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Empty banks can be picked up as you leave the altar area each Communion Sunday or requested from the Finance Committee through the church office. Again, thanks for saving your change; every little bit helps.



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. Our Mission tree will be located in the Extension.

KOINONIA YARD SALE

March 5 – March 6

Friday, March 5 7:30 AM – 4 PM
Saturday, March 6 9 AM – 3 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 1 at 9:00 AM to help set up the tables and on Saturday, March 6 at 3:00 PM to clean up. Thanks to everyone for your contributions, time and support for this very important project.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



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

Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle Tue., March 9 7:00 p.m.
Church Lounge

Ruth Circle Wed., March 3 10:00 a.m.
Church Lounge

Circle Leaders

Rebekah Circle Marlene Johnson
Ruth Circle Joan Stadelman

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN SPRING FLING

Saturday, March 13 8:30 AM

Richardson Park UMW will host this conference event. We need breakfast goodies!

MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST

Tuesday, March 16 7:00 PM
Extension

Ruth Circle is responsible for set up and the program, and Rebekah Circle is responsible for buns and cocoa and clean up.

If you are interested in joining a Circle, please contact Marlene or Joan 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 comb with lg. teeth	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.

UMW 2009 REPORT

Pledges, fund raisers, special offerings and gifts enabled the Methodist Women of Richardson Park UMC to complete 2009 with all commitments met plus extra giving. Our local church received a total of \$2,520 from the UMW. Our community and other missions received \$1,008. The unit forwarded \$1,710 to the District UMW. We thank everyone, not only UMW members, who gave time, talent and monies for the UMW's successful year of mission during a national recession.

Pat Cummings
RPUMW President

THANK YOU RPUMC MEMBERS!

No matter what the cause, our church family always comes through! The recent funeral luncheon we had for Ruth Berry was another opportunity to serve in His name. Thank you once again to everyone who helped!

Pat Cummings, President

PENIEL UMC SPRING CONCERT

SAVE THIS DATE
SUNDAY, APRIL 25 7:00 PM

The Peniel Choir and Ringers and the NCCC Band will perform.



Hi everyone! May the peace that comes from God's love wash over you during this season of Lent.

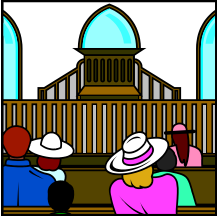


Grades 1 thru 3 (Classroom 3) will follow Jesus and meet his disciples. We will learn what it means to become "fishers of men." Of course, our learning is reinforced by Bible study, role-play and singing! At the end of the month, we will focus on preparing for Easter. Blessings from Ms. Marlene.

Grades 4 thru 8 will be continuing Grapple and beginning a theme on relationships - "Who's the Boss of Me?" studying Romans 13:1: Why do so many people boss me around? (God puts people in charge); When do I get to be the boss? (Servicing leads to leadership); What about when my parents are unfair? (honoring authority); and What if my parent asks me to do something wrong? (God's Law is above Man's Law).

Grades 9 thru 12 will learn about Lent and then begin a study on Angels and Demons - using Bible passages to learn what's fact and what's fiction and knowing that Angels are watching over us.





Laity Enlightenment

Most of us have heard the expression, “well, you learn something new everyday”. It could be something you read about in the newspaper, a fact you see on the internet or something you learn to do for the first time. If you really think about it, this statement is probably true for each one of us.

This year I became the Lay Leader at the Richardson Park United Methodist Church. My first thoughts were, what is a lay leader and what does a lay leader do? So I asked the Pastor and he gave me the descriptions of the role of the lay leader as found in The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church and the Cokesbury Lay Leader/Lay Member Guidelines. But let’s start with the Webster’s definition of lay which is, “of the laity or ordinary people, as distinguished from clergy”. And laity is further defined as “all the people not belonging to any given profession”. Common folk, like me and you.

So what does a lay leader do? I recently attended a training session at St. Mark’s Church and discovered the many aspects of laity including serving on three of the committees in our church; Finance, Staff Parish Relations and Council. I’m also expected to meet with the Pastor regularly. But one of the principle functions of the lay leader is to be an advocate for the people of the church. So I would like to invite everyone to learn and grow with me and talk to me about anything that is on your heart or mind regarding the church (finances, missions, church activities, youth or personal issues). I will endeavor to do my very best to be your advocate within the church over the next three years. With your help, I’m sure I’ll be able to honestly say that I learned something new every day.

May God’s Grace and Love guide us in all that we do!

Your Lay Leader,
Kathy Russell

U.S. CENSUS March 19 – April 16, 2010

In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau will count every person living in our nation. Part of Jesus’ call to be our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers is to help everyone participate in their own governance. Completing your census form helps ensure your community gets its share of representation in the government and funding for essential services, including monies for schools and social agencies. The information you provide is required to be kept safe. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents’ answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. RPUMC will be helping the effort by hosting a community-based Question Assistance Center (QAC) that will aid families and individuals in filling out their census questionnaire. **It is our goal to help insure everyone in Delaware is counted.**

A Census assistant will be available at RPUMC on the following dates to help you fill out the questionnaire:

March 19	9 AM – 12 PM	April 2	9 AM – 12 PM
March 23, 24 & 25	9 AM – 1 PM	April 6, 7 & 8	9 AM – 1 PM
March 26	9 AM -12 PM	April 9	9 AM – 12 PM
March 30 & 31 & April 1	9 AM – 1 PM	April 13, 14 & 15	9 AM – 1 PM
		April 16	9 AM – 12 PM

Richardson Park Community Action Program, Inc.

Interim Report on Our Mission

CAP continues to focus on its core mission, which is helping neighbors in need. Here are a few highlights of our activities in the period June through December 2009:

- Assisted 21 households with emergency rent, paying \$7,112 direct to landlords;
- Assisted 36 households with emergency utilities, paying \$8,800 to Delmarva; Artesian, and heating oil companies;
- Assisted two clients with prescription medicine, paying \$154;
- Assisted two clients with gasoline, paying \$20;
- Provided emergency food to 471 households, representing 746 adults and 384 children;
- Distributed 33,072 pounds of food.

On behalf of the many deserving clients we served, we send gratitude to Richardson Park United Methodist Church.

Pancake Breakfast

CAP's Pancake Breakfast on January 30 was a great success. Many hungry and talkative people came out for this happy event to feast on food and fellowship. One of the best aspects of any CAP event is the opportunity it provides to meet people from other churches. We send our thanks to all who worked on the event and to Peniel Methodist Church for being our host.

CAP's Hours, Etc.

CAP is located at 107 South Maryland Avenue, next to our good friend the QuickMart. We are open Monday and Tuesday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Thursday noon to 6:00 pm; Friday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Our thrift shop is open to the public -- everyone is welcome to visit and shop. Our cell phone, which we actually answer during business hours and more, is (302) 358-5357. To leave us a voice mail message, call 428-1247.

FOOD FOR CAP

Don't forget to bring food for CAP the first need of:



Sunday of each month. They are in

canned meats and stews, peanut butter and jelly,
hot & cold cereals, tuna, baked beans, and canned fruit.

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 22. 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 Youth Group
Invites you to attend our

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, March 27, 2010
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Celebrating Missions Work in our churches!



\$7.00 / Adult
\$5.00 / Child

Fellowship Hall Richardson Park United Methodist Church
11 North Maryland Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19804
302-654-0961

YE OLDE SHOPPE

Browse and Shop
Every Thursday 9 - 1
January 21 Thru March 4.

THEN

books

dishes

clothes

Friday, March 5, 7:30 - 4

and

shoes

Saturday, March 6, 9 - 3

small appliances

toys

furniture

ONE GIGANTIC INDOOR/OUTDOOR YARD SALE

bedding & curtains

Lunch and Goodies Available

jewelry

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

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“THE MESSENGER” MARCH 2010

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



LAY READERS

March 7	Tod Mitten
March 14	Joan Stadelman
March 21	Bryon Price
March 28	Volena Sease

ALTAR FLOWERS

March 7	Tony and Glenda Donnelly
March 14	Jay and Pat Cummings
March 21	Joan Stadelman
March 28	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 10 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.*