

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



"Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other."

- John 13:34 (the Message)

As most of you know, Peniel UMC and Richardson Park UMC are working together to create a new worship service that will invite people who are currently not attending our churches into relationship with Jesus Christ. Both RPUMC and Peniel's Administrative Councils voted to start an Exploratory Committee to determine our possibilities. Members of the committee have been praying and working to help us create this new opportunity to reach out. Following are members from each church: Rob Anderson (RP), Buddy Bratton (P), Janet Dickerson (RP), Ray Goodman (P), Harold Riley (P), Kathy Russell (RP), Joan Stadelman (RP), Bob Stumpf (P), Lane Tokarski (P), and Ryan Warfel (RP). Here is what we have discussed over the past couple of months:

Why should we do this?

The world is changing and people don't know who God is. When you look at the violence in our streets, children who lack basic needs, and the growing number of people who just don't care, God is missing! There are many opportunities in our area for a traditional worship experience in a "mainline" church setting. Unfortunately, people are no longer drawn to this, and our churches are not reaching people who long for God in a different way. If our mission from God is to make followers of Jesus Christ, we need to try new ways of connecting people to the Messiah. We are charged by Christ to take the Good News to the people who need to hear it the most, and we feel compelled to try this new way. We are trying to love them in a whole new way.

What type of service is this?

This service will not look like anything we are doing now—nor will it change the way we do our traditional services. The goal is to create a service that will connect people to God through a different avenue of worship and music. It will have a band, Holy Communion every week, and have a lot of laity participation. We are hoping to bring in different ways to worship including drama, dance, and art.

Where will this service be held?

For whatever reason, there are a significant number of folks who aren't comfortable in church. While many of us love our church buildings, the building itself is only a tool for helping people to grow in God. At this point, unfortunately, our church has become a stumbling block to our evangelism efforts because people are intimidated to walk through our doors. Our goal is to take the service to a "neutral" location where people feel comfortable going, such as a school, a movie theater, a fire house, etc. We are currently checking area locations to see what are our options.

Has this been done before—successfully?

Yes. Many churches have taken their services "outside" to bring more people closer to Christ. In fact, two United Methodist churches in Chesapeake City, MD (Trinity and Town Point), started a new worship service in a school. Now over 100 people attend weekly worship services there. We currently are talking with Rev. Amy Yarnell, who leads the worship team, about their success.

Does this mean that Richardson Park and Peniel are merging congregations?

No. We will still maintain two separate congregations. What it does mean is that RP and Peniel care so much about spreading the Gospel that we are willing to join efforts in transforming the communities of Newport and Richardson Park. What one of us could do well, two of us could do great. Why not pull our resources together to create a great worship experience?

How can we help?

Please pray that we can bring people into relationship with God through our new service! With prayer, we can accomplish anything. If you are interested in participating in planning this new worship, please contact Pastor Tracy or Pastor Tom.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Tracy and Pastor Tom

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Ashley Aiken	2/3
Edward Podgorski	2/4
Bill Green	2/7
Jeff Sheridan	2/8
Carol Cathell	2/10
Amy Roberts	2/10
Mary Sutor	2/11
Brian Crozier	2/12
Terri Antonine	2/13
Byrom Price	2/13
Ellen Willard	2/14
Katherine Oakmont	2/15
Elaine Spedden	2/17
Frank Pugh	2/18
Kathy Gibbons	2/20
Bettie Smith	2/20
Robert Truitt	2/20
Kristin Fleming	2/21
Bethany Pasmore	2/21
Greg Haynes	2/22
Morgan Coverdale	2/23
Ben Brindle	2/24
Bob Thomas	2/24
Angel Adams	2/25
Alice Brosch	2/26

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

WESLEY TOWER BANKS

January 2011 \$56.21

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

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



In February, Rebekah Circle will take care of the flowers in the church.

Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle	Tues., Feb. 1	7:00 p.m.
	Home of Marlene Johnson	
Ruth Circle	Wed., Feb. 2	10:00 a.m.
	Church Lounge	

Esther Circle will meet on a Sunday in February which will be determined at a later date.

Circle Leaders

Rebekah Circle	Marlene Johnson
Ruth Circle	Joan Stadelman/ Lee Powell
Esther Circle	Yvonne Mitten

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



MISSION TREE



On Sundays in February, we are hanging **Hearts** on our Mission Tree. Hang a "heart" on the tree in honor or memory of someone special to you. Minimum donation is \$1.00.

ZINGO NEWS

It was a very sad day for our community when Zingo's in the Boxwood Shopping Center closed their doors. Their organization has been wonderful to our church over the years. This past year alone we received \$855.14 from their Receipt Rebate Program.

The really good news is that the Rebate Program will continue! If you have old receipts from the Boxwood store, please don't toss them. Just put them in the offering plate or the basket in the vestibule and we will add them to the receipts we receive from those who shop at the store on Linden Hill Road! If you prefer to mail them to the church, our address is:

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

Thanks to all in our congregation and our community who contribute to this very special fund raiser.

FOOD FOR CAP



Don't forget to bring food for CAP the first Sunday of each month. They are in need of:

Peanut butter, jelly, canned goods, pasta sides, vegetables (canned or fresh), baked beans, tuna fish, cereal, canned ravioli, canned fruit, and anything non-perishable.

A donation in memory of...

Mike Phillips donated his snow removal services for the month of January 2011 in memory of

*Paul and Irene Phillips
Samuel Pettyjohn
John Laur*

As you know, we received a lot of snow last month and Mike was at RPUMC to keep our parking lots cleared and safe for everyone. Thank you, Mike, for your generous service to our church family.

YE OLDE SHOPPE

Ye Olde Shoppe is open for browsing and shopping every Thursday from 9 AM to 1 PM. The Shoppe also will be open the first Saturday of each month from 9 AM to 1 PM. Stop in and look for some special treasures for you, your family or your friends.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

INDOOR/OUTDOOR YARD SALE

**Friday, March 18
&
Saturday, March 19**

More information will be in the March Newsletter.

KIDS' KORNER

Kristi J. Doughty



February is the month to focus on love including love for your family, friends, and sharing God's love with those we come into contact with on a daily basis - share a smile - it'll warm someone's heart!

Greetings from Room 3!

During February, we will explore the way Jesus shared his love with other people. We will meet Nicodemus (based on the Bible - John 3); a Roman centurion (based on the Bible - Matthew 8); how wealth often gets in the way of truly following Jesus (based on the Bible - Matthew 19); and slowing down to really listen to Jesus (Luke 10). Room 3 will definitely be busy in February! Come and join us...

Blessings from Ms. Marlene

Grades 4 thru 8 will continue examining choices - Learning to Hear God (How do I know God's voice?); Practicing Discernment (What if it Doesn't *Feel*/Wrong?); and Recovering From Bad Choices (What if I Mess Up?). They'll then begin to study Colossians 1:18 -- thinking about Relationships - Encountering God in the Community (Why Do I Have to Go to Church - Can't I just Sleep In?)

Grades 9 thru 12 will explore several aspects of Love - avoiding mistakes and learning to love others in supportive ways using some practical guidelines, as well as making some Valentine's Day crafts and games!



RICHARDSON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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654-0961



We  *Recycling!*

Please bring these items to our green and yellow bin:

Catalogs

Magazines

Newspapers

Junk Mail

TV Guides

Weekly Advertisement Circulars

Folders

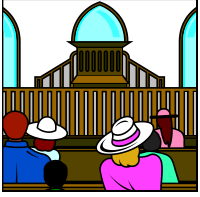
Construction Paper

Poster Paper

(Please no phone books or cardboard)

Happy Valentine's Day!





Laity Enlightenment ***Kathy Russell, Lay Leader***

It's February so I'd like to write about matters of the "heart." There are so many references to "heart" in the Bible that it's hard to know where to begin. So, let's first start with some of our favorite common sayings.

Absence makes the **Heart** grow fonder.
Home is where the **Heart** is.
He has your best interest at **Heart**.
Cold hands; warm **Heart**.
Let's have a **Heart to Heart** talk, shall we?

Are any of these familiar to you or maybe you even use them in conversation? We hear catchy phrases or even advertisement jingles everyday. The repetition leads to memorization and reiteration of what we've memorized which can then create a habit.

I was recently offered some "constructive criticism" when I was told I use the phrase, "you know what I mean" too often in conversation. In my defense, I explained that I really do want to know if the person I'm talking to actually does know what I mean or otherwise understands what I'm saying. When I thought about it some more, it occurred to me that this phrase may have started out being used for a specific purpose of punctuating a point in my conversation. But once it was being used all the time, it was really more of a habit and wasn't necessary. It became more of an annoying add-on to every other sentence. It lost its original meaning and impact. Needless to say, I'm trying to break that particular habit. I'll probably have to just stop talking to succeed; I'll keep working on that.

The Bible, on the other hand, is full of catchy phrases and quotable quotes that are very much worth committing to memory and adding into a conversation. There are so many words, phrases or verses that could easily be part of our everyday conversations and may even be so already. How about the phrase, "Thank God"? It may be overused but, if spoken with sincerity and reverence at the right time, it's a very good choice of words. This sentiment is found in the Bible in different forms; thank the Lord..., give thanks to God..., praise the Lord, and so on. "God is love" and "peace be with you" can also be found in the Bible. These or other pure and simple expressions of faith and love can be spoken aloud as encouraging words, greetings or blessings to our brothers and sisters in Christ or people we meet.

The scripture always seems to present itself in a new, uniquely timeless way every time it's read. Some verses are familiar because we have heard them read or read them ourselves many times. John 3:16 is one of the more frequently referenced, memorized and recited Bible verses. Do you know this one by heart? Can you remember all the words exactly as written? This is a verse that captures the essence of salvation and might be a good one to use if someone asks you why you believe in God. The King James Version reads, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

(Continued on next page.)

There are many Bible passages that point to various key aspects of Christianity that are still applicable today and are important to know and recognize. The 23rd Psalm, The Ten Commandments and The Beatitudes are just a few of the most familiar. But the “Good Book” is here for us to explore, study and use to connect with God and become better Christians. There are a number of versions of the Bible and you can read it on-line, too! Have you ever just opened the Bible to any page and began reading? This can be a good way to change your attitude about something or relieve stress or just help you center back on God. You may just chance upon a verse that speaks to you personally and then becomes one you memorize and return to again and again for comfort or strength.

Below is a list of some of the scripture verses that have been significant to me for different reasons. Use this list as the beginning of a daily prayer or devotional time. Or make a list of your favorite passages and commit them to memory, if you haven't already. Any time spent reading the Bible or in prayer will undoubtedly be rewarding in ways we may not even be aware.

Matthew 5:19-22	Numbers 6:24-26	Exodus 20:1-17	James 2:14-17
Revelation 22:18-21	Luke 2:10-12	Mathew 11:28-30	Psalm 3:4-18
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Matthew 7:31-33	Revelation 21:8	Genesis 1:1-5

I'll leave you with this verse in celebration of Valentine's Day, Psalm 73:26, “My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.”



The DuPont Diversity Choir was formed in 1991 by volunteers to sing for the DuPont celebration in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The 45 choir members differ in age, ethnic and religious background, and occupation but have in common a desire to make a joyful noise in support of Dr. King's dream.

The choir is under the direction of C. Lawler Rogers, Sr. who has had a distinguished career as a music educator, arts administrator, performer, conductor, and organizer and promoter of multicultural activities. He is familiar to many in this area as the Supervisor of Fine Arts for the Brandywine School District until his retirement in 1998. He has conducted numerous groups, including The Ardensingers, The Brandywiners, Ltd. and OperaDelaware, and he conducted the composition *Hallelujah Handel* with the Delaware Symphony Orchestra. He was honored with the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in the category of Arts Education in 2000 and the Christi Award for outstanding achievement in Arts Education in 2005.

Since its formation, the DuPont Diversity Choir has sung for numerous corporate events, as well as at community events sponsored by organizations like the Music School of Delaware, the Festival of Spirituals, the Kennett Symphony of Chester County and the City of Wilmington. Please join us to be entertained and blessed **on Sunday, February 13 at 3 PM at St. Helena's Church. They are hosting “The Festival of Spirituals.”**

Contact Kathy Russell at 302-999-0445 for more information.

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7 PM Rebekah Circle 8 PM AA Meeting	2 10 AM Ruth Circle 6:30 PM Disciple I 7:30 PM NA Meeting	3 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	4 10 AM Disciple II 11 AM Soup Kitchen	5 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe
6 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Education Meeting 6 PM TYG Super Bowl Party	7	8 8 PM AA Meeting	9 6:30 PM Disciple I 7:30 PM NA Meeting	10 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	11 10 AM Disciple II 11 AM Soup Kitchen	12
13 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg. Fellowship Hall Res.	14	15 8 PM AA Meeting	16 6:30 PM Disciple I 7:30 PM NA Meeting	17 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	18 10 AM Disciple II 11 AM Soup Kitchen	19
20 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Council Mtg.	21	22 8 PM AA Meeting	23 6:30 PM Disciple I 7:30 PM NA Meeting	24 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	25 10 AM Disciple II 11 AM Soup Kitchen	26
27 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship	28	8 PM AA Meeting	7:30 PM NA Meeting			

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



LAY READERS

February 6	Carol Cathell
February 13	Lillian Simmons
February 20	Kristi Doughty
February 27	Youth

ALTAR FLOWERS

February 6	Charlene & Bruce Workman
February 13	Chancel Bells & Choir
At the Cross	Melissa Hughes
February 20	Bob Evely
At the Cross	Bettie Smith
February 27	Lee Powell

ALTAR FLOWERS

For the month of February, Rebekah 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
March Messenger to the church office by
Wednesday, February 9. 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.*