

Richardson Park United Methodist Church  
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*Then Joshua summoned the twelve men from the Israelites, whom he had appointed, one from each tribe. Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, one for each of the tribes of the Israelites, so that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the Israelites a memorial forever." The Israelites did as Joshua commanded.*

*- Joshua 4:4-8 (New Revised Standard Version)*

As you read these words, the new year is already a few days old, and I look forward to another go around on this small planet that we call Earth. I can't help but think back to previous years and Christmas seasons. (All the snow I've seen flying around the Midwest on TV has made me nostalgic.) I remember sledding, skating and cross-country skiing throughout the winters of my youth. I remember when it was so cold (-45° F) mom would not let us go outside. I remember skating at the ice rink until my feet were numb. I remember falling over on my skis for the first time and not being able to get up. I remember sledding down a homemade toboggan run out in the state forest that had a jump in the middle which we hit so hard that we landed on the flats on the bottom of the hill. (Ouch!) All this remembering has really made me want to don the old hockey gear and go out and hit something really hard. (Most of the time when this happened in my previous hockey career, I was the one that usually ended up on the bench with some kind of minor injury.) But I think I can curb my enthusiasm.

You see, I believe this fascination with our past is something that is deeply a part of our human condition. It's a search for the comfortable, a longing for simpler times, a desire to return to our roots, and a chance to share with our kids, nieces, nephews, or grandchildren a view of our lives before they were born. The desire to pass on the stories of our forefathers, of our tradition, is an important part of what it means to be a Christian and a human. It's the consistency and "sameness" that connects Christian life and worship of the past and present centuries together. But just as the New Year causes us to look both backward and forward at the same time, we post-modern Christians need to balance our desire to stay with the standard and familiar while seeking to embrace a future that is jammed-packed full of the hope that is Christ Jesus. It is the wonderful marriage of the past and the future that provides the strong foundation, the incredible security, the challenge, the risk, and the unbelievable joy and peace that comes from our walk with the Lord. As we start this year, my wish for you and for all at Richardson Park UMC is an ever closer walk with the Jesus who comes to us from the past and is always calling us into the future. If God goes before us into 2011, what can possibly stop us?

Blessings and Peace to you all and a Happy 2011, *Pastor Tom*



## 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 2010. Our total rebate through November 2010 is \$622.07.

# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



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

**Rebekah Circle** will meet on Tuesday, January 4, 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge.

**Ruth Circle** will meet on Wednesday, January 5, 10:00 a.m. in the Lounge.

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

### Circle Leaders

**Rebekah Circle**                      **Marlene Johnson**

**Ruth Circle**                              **Joan Stadelman**

**Esther Circle**                            **Yvonne Mitten**

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

## WESLEY TOWER BANKS

**December 2010    \$163.43**

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Our total for 2010 is \$1,273.07. 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 the holiday season has passed but there is lots to do at Sunday School – come and bring a friend!

In January, Room 3 will learn what it means to follow Jesus. We will learn about faith, Jesus' early life, and that nothing should get in the way of following Jesus. These lessons are based on the books of Matthew and John in the Bible. Come join us as we learn about Jesus! Ms. Marlene

Grades 4 thru 8 will begin to focus on James 5:16 thinking about the faith question – is prayer pointless? Being patient in prayer (What takes God so long?); persisting in prayer (Do my prayers bore God?); accepting God's answers (What if I pray really hard, and God says no?); and practicing prayer (What's the right way to pray?). Then we'll begin a new area focusing on choices – Proverbs 2:6 – finding good counsel (Who should I listen to?).

Grades 9 thru 12 will be talking about picking a path and making choices; dealing with conflict and family issues; developing trust in God; and our monthly visit from Pastor Tom -- so save up your questions!



***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 2011.**

*Tom, Harriet Ann, Beth, Ryan and Ella*



## ***Laity Enlightenment***

Are you familiar with the Christmastide carol “In the Bleak Midwinter?” It was written before 1872 by the English Poet Christina Rossetti as a Christmas poem. It was set to music by Gustav Holst and became a Christmas carol appearing in *The English Hymnal* around 1906. The first verse goes like this....

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

The first two months of every year remind me of this song. It’s cold, the daylight hours are short, and everything seems hard, lifeless and gray. It becomes a challenge to remain positive and good natured during this time of year. According to Wikipedia, in the first verse the writer was describing the physical circumstances of the incarnation in Bethlehem; that night when Christ was born. Consider the challenges that Mary and Joseph had for the first few months after the Son of God was sent to them as a child.

The words to this carol are thought provoking and the music is soothing and serene. Although the title suggests otherwise, the message is one that tells of our Savior coming to earth. It describes the gathering of angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim singing, and a mother kissing her beloved child. The last verse asks an important question....

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

The conclusion is something that we all can do: Give ourselves to God; reconfirm our commitment to Christ: give him our hearts. This is something that we could revisit from time to time as a way to remind ourselves that when we accept the Lord as our personal savior, we give our life to God. As disciples of Christ, we can be instrumental in leading others to God by the way we live our lives.

Don’t let the cold and dark of the bleak midwinter settle in and depress your spirit. This winter let us dwell in the light, warmth and love of God, our Father. Let us focus on the joy that comes from knowing we are all God’s children. Let us share the Good News of Salvation with others. And it will feel like Spring.

Have a Blessed New Year!

Kathy Russell, Lay Leader

*"Trustees' Times"*



**Parting Note from Trustees' Chair, Rob Anderson**

I just want to say thanks for all of the help and support that I received over the past two years as your Trustee's Chairperson. It has been a pleasurable experience working with both the current and past members of the Trustee's over the last few years, and I feel we were able to accomplish a lot of tasks to help keep the church in good operating condition.

We had our share of curve balls with items such as major damage to our brand new guttering and down spout system from the large amount of snow fall, shoveling and de-icing, plumbing leaks, cracked walls and plaster to patch and paint. We preformed preventive maintenance and made improvements in the sanctuary with the sanding and painting around the interior of the windows, replacement of the dishwasher in the parsonage along with many minor improvements in the parsonage, and the transformation of the third floor tower room to the Tower of Power. The Trustees also kicked in, along with other members of the church, to help keep the exterior grounds looking good by coordinating the mulching and trimming of the hedges. We also helped coordinate the replacement of the carpet in the sanctuary "thanks to Gail Eney the major contributing sponsor" and Bob Evely, our liaison with the installer. It is a very noticeable improvement.

Another group I would like to thank on behalf of the Trustees is the BMG (Building Maintenance Group). You guys are the unsung heroes for coming in on a weekly basis to make repairs and do preventive maintenance. We are very fortunate to have a group of people who care so much, and we don't know where we would be without you guys. Thanks!

Last but not least, I want to recognize and thank both Janet Dickerson and Tammy Brindle for acting as the Trustees' secretaries over the past two years. You both did a great job in helping to keep all of us organized.

As the next group of Trustees moves forward into the new year, I hope more people will step up and give them a hand when the call comes to enhance and take care of our facility. It is very important and meaningful to support their efforts and take care of what we have.

Thank you again for the opportunity. Rob

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**RICHARDSON PARK COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (CAP)  
PART-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE**

CAP has an opening for a part-time Client Service Coordinator. Work hours are: Monday and Tuesday – 10 AM to 3 PM; Thursday – Noon to 6 PM, and Friday – 10 AM to 2 PM. They are looking for a person who is committed to helping their neighbors. This individual will be working with clients on a daily basis. They must be pleasant mannered and enjoy working with low-income individuals and families and preferably be bi-lingual (English/Spanish). CAP is accepting résumés via email at: [www.capdirector1@verizon.net](mailto:www.capdirector1@verizon.net).



## ***FROM OUR DIRECTORS OF YOUTH MINISTRY...***

After much thought, prayer, and more prayer, we have decided that we need to turn over the position of Youth Leaders to someone else. As you can imagine, having a baby has added a whole new dimension to our lives, and a lot of extra time. We both work in full-time jobs which require an enormous amount of extra time, simply by the nature of the job, and we are finding it difficult to give everything and everyone the attention they deserve. The youth group has been an important part of our lives for the past five years but we feel that the youth deserve more time and attention and guidance than we are able to provide them with. Their spiritual lives need to be a top priority as they need a strong relationship with Christ more than ever these days.

Thank you for the opportunity to work in this position. We have enjoyed being able to share our Christian lives with the youth of our church. We are confident that God will open the door to strong leadership and new perspective for our youth in future days.

In Christian Love,

Beth & Ryan Warfel

# January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7 Youth Rally Ocean City 10 AM Disciple II 11 AM Soup Kitchen 5 PM Koinonia Meeting	1
9 Youth Rally 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg.	10	11	12	13 Extension Reserved - Special Election 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship	8 PM AA Meeting	8 PM AA Meeting	6:30 PM Disciple I 7:30 PM NA Meeting	3:30 PM Kids Café 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	10 AM Disciple II 11 AM Soup Kitchen	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Fellowship Hall Reserved+
9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship	8 PM AA Meeting	7 PM Health Church Initiatives Workshop 8 PM AA Meeting	6:30 PM Disciple I 7:30 PM NA Meeting	3:30 PM Kids Café 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	10 AM Disciple II 11 AM Soup Kitchen	
30	31					
9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship						
<i>11:30 Council Mtg</i>						

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

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# “THE MESSENGER” JANUARY 2011

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Tom Pasmore, Pastor



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**TO OUR MANY FRIENDS!**

## LAY READERS

January 2	Jim Chilcutt
January 9	Ed Ide
January 16	Sandy Swain
January 23	Pat Cummings
January 30	Youth

## ALTAR FLOWERS

January 2	Doris Evans-Schippers
January 9	Robert Truitt
January 16	Sandy and Ed Ide
January 23	Gail Eney and
	Brian and Tracy Crozier
January 30	Dennis & Marlene Johnson

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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

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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 10. Thank you.

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*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.*