

Richardson Park United Methodist Church
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Wilmington, DE 19804-1305

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But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

- Philippians 3:7-11,16 (New International Version)

When I was a kid, my confirmation teacher, Mrs. McCunn, tried to explain to me the concept of justification according to Wesleyan theology. I was completely lost. The thing that confused me was which came first, our good works or the grace of God? For the longest time, I thought that my ticket to heaven would be punched by all good things that I was doing here on earth. I had lost sight of my own faith. You see, we aren't saved by what we can do. We can't be saved by what we can do. We are saved by faith alone in Jesus Christ, which brings us God's unlimited grace. This grace justifies us (makes us whole) in God's view and brings us into right relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

Jesus tells us time and time again that we can't save ourselves, but do we listen? The "Protestant Work Ethic" makes us think we have to earn grace. Unfortunately, we can't do it. Grace is God's alone to share as God sees fit.

All we can do is try to live up to what we have already attained through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection; our own eternal existence. For people are basically told since birth that we have to earn our way in this world, the concept of God's free, abundant, and amazing grace is hard to grasp. "Letting go and letting God" is really, really difficult.

What we can do is respond to the gift of God's grace in our lives. Jesus invites us to follow him and live for others. Once we understand that Jesus' life was a sacrifice for us, then we can begin to respond to the work of God in our lives. Jesus then invites us to give ourselves away so that others may live. This is how God's grace completes its work in us. Jesus calls us to love God with our whole hearts, our whole minds, and our whole strength. God also invites us to love one another with this very same love. As Micah 6:8 says, "What does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"

This Easter season, give yourself away for others. Take a moment to do something unexpected, uninvited, or unthought-of for someone else. God's grace has been poured out on you, so help others experience the love of Christ through your gifts during this season of resurrection. Be Jesus to someone else here and now.

May the resurrection of hope bring about hope in your life,

Pastor Tom

SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY



At a special service on **Sunday, May 15**, young people from six area United Methodist churches will be **confirmed** at a joint celebration at **Peniel United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m.** Our District Superintendent, *Derrick Porter*, will lead the service.



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 June 5 Worship Service.

KIDS CAFÉ

Our Kids Café Superstars will be meeting for their final session of this school year on Thursday, May 12, 2011 starting at 3:30 p.m. This year's finale will again include a Talent Show featuring many of our Kids Café participants! We hope you will come join the fun!!!

WORSHIP SERVICE AND COOKOUT

Sunday, May 29

Richardson Park UMC is having a cookout and covered-dish following worship.

We hope to see you there!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Courtney Burke	May 1
Claudia McFarland	May 1
John Parks	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
Jacob Gommer	May 6
Johnathan Gommer	May 6
Katie Meadows	May 6
Mary Ann Atkinson	May 7
Destiny Dale	May 7
Zach Farley	May 7
Cliff Campbell	May 8
Shirley Roberts	May 8
Katherine Banks	May 10
Kayla Griffith	May 10
Maegin Coverdale	May 12
Ed McFarland	May 13
Volena Sease	May 13
Richard Beane	May 14
Steven Ott	May 14
John Burke	May 15
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 Klingler	May 17
Allison Perugini	May 17
Maria Ott	May 18
Robert McFarland	May 20
Sydney Thomas	May 22
Karlee Boyd	May 23
Leonard Moore	May 23
Brenda Tucker	May 26
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 and Esther Circles will take care of the flowers in the church.

Circle Meetings

Esther Circle	Sun., May 29	11:30 AM
	Church Lounge	
Rebekah Circle	Mon., May 2	6:00 PM
	Dinner – Hunter's Den	
Ruth Circle	Wed., May 4	10:00 AM
	Church Lounge	

Circle Leaders

Esther Circle	Yvonne Mitten
Rebekah Circle	Marlene Johnson
Ruth Circle	Joan Stadelman

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



FASHION SHOW AND DESSERT TEA **Saturday, May 21 - 1:30 PM**

"Fashions on a Budget and Dessert Tea"

In today's economy, people are discovering areas to save money. Come to the UMW's "Fashions on a Budget" and Dessert Tea on Saturday, May 21 in Fellowship Hall. You will be pleasantly surprised to learn how clever the girls of RPUMC can be! Don't miss it. Following the fashion show, there will be a dessert tea. Tickets are \$8.00 and must be purchased by Sunday, May 15. Contact Marlene Johnson at 328-5806.



WESLEY TOWER BANKS
April 2011 \$56.78

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Our year-to-date total is \$165.98. 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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YE OLDE SHOPPE

Ye Olde Shoppe is open the first Saturday of each month from 9 AM to 1 PM . If you can't stop in on Thursdays between 9 AM and 1 PM, we hope to see you the first Saturday of each month. Come, browse and shop. There are special treasures for you, your family or your friends.



CHANCEL CHOIR AND CHANCEL BELLS

The Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells' final practice before summer is Thursday, May 26. The choir will sing on Pentecost Sunday on June 12. No rehearsal will be required.



IN THE GARDEN

Summer is fast approaching and with this comes “God's Little Angels” digging, planting and watering. We are so grateful for their contribution to our church garden. Sooo..... now we need a little TLC and some gardening hands to say yes to an hour or so a week to keep the area weed free, watered and cut back. With many hands stepping in, your input may take only several scattered weeks throughout the gardening season. If you are that person (or persons, maybe a team?) please call the church office at-654-0961 to say yes to this seasonal project. Thanks in advance for your greatly appreciated time and loving hands.



KIDS' KORNER



Hi everyone! May is here! Warm days, flowers, and Mother's Day make this a happy time of year! Richardson Park United Methodist Church is a beautiful and loving place to come, so join us to learn about God's grace. Look for upcoming details in the bulletin about God's Little Angels' annual planting in the Wesley Tower garden! And don't forget - "Shake It Up Café" Vacation Bible School will be happening the last week in June – get ready!

In May, Room 3 will be following Jesus' disciples as they spread the word of God. We will learn about Pentecost in the Book of Acts as we travel to different countries. We also will follow Paul on his journeys as he calls people to be followers of God (Book of Galatians); teaches people to work together to tell of the "Good News" (Acts); and God takes care of those who follow him (Acts). Using songs, Bible stories, felt board, and skits are a great reinforcement! It's wonderful to learn about our awesome God!!! Blessings from Ms. Marlene

Grades 4 thru 8 will be looking at Colossians 3:11 focusing on God's Opinion (Is being liked what matters?); Being Kind (Is being right what really matters); Being Faithful (Is being the best what matters?); and Being Content (Is being happy what matters?).

Grades 9 thru 12 will be finishing its study of Max Lucado's book "He Chose the Nails – What God Did to Claim your Heart" in which we'll discuss God's promises thru the crucifixion. Next we'll be discussing near-death experiences, what are they? How do they affect those that experience them? Are there scientific explanations for them? How is God experienced or perceived in near-death experiences? Implications from near-death experiences and what can we learn from them? And if there's time, we'll watch a DVD called the Case for Christ in which an investigative journalist, Lee Strobel, tells about his compelling search for knowledge that led him from a life of atheism to faith by examining the historical accuracy of the Gospels, the personal claims of Jesus and His resurrection from the Dead..





My mom always said that the best things in the world come out of the kitchen! At this year's Vacation Bible School at Richardson Park, we are going into the kitchen to see what God has cooking for our lives. Whether you're going to preschool or can't remember the last time you were in school, we think you would enjoy a great week of VBS. "Kitchen crews" will be formed for anyone preschool (three or older) through sixth grade. If you are older than sixth grade and want to be involved, our VBS kids need you and we would love your help! There are so many ways that you can contribute, from decorating the church to sorting materials for crafts to moving children from place to place. Even if you aren't available the week of VBS, we have opportunities for you to pitch in!

Shake It Up Café will be held Sunday, June 26 through Thursday, June 30. Come and enjoy dinner, crafts, music, games, storytelling, and lots of fun. Each night we begin with dinner at 5:30 pm and finish in the sanctuary at 8:00 pm. We are asking everyone to preregister so that we have enough food and materials for all of our "chefs." Registration begins this month. Simply fill out a registration form and place it in the offering plate on Sunday or turn it into the office.

Got questions about what's going on in our kitchen?? We have all the answers! Please contact either Sarah Pasmore (652-6168), Kristy Doughty (832-1271) or the church office (654-0961) for more information about this ministry and our special time in the kitchen the last week of June. We hope to see you here for Vacation Bible School!



RICHARDSON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

NAME: _____ HELPER:

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME TELEPHONE: (____) _____ AGE: _____

LAST SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: HOME _____ CELL _____

ALLERGIES OR OTHER MEDICAL CONDITIONS: _____

HOME CHURCH: _____

ONE SPECIAL FRIEND YOUR CHILD MIGHT LIKE TO BE WITH AT VBS: _____

SUNDAY, JUNE 26 - THURSDAY, June 30

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

AGES 3 THRU GRADE 6

NOTE: HELPERS (7TH-12TH GRADES) MUST PRE-REGISTER

****PLEASE SEE ADDITIONAL INFO ON BACK OF REGISTRATION****

All children must be picked up promptly at 8:00 p.m. If your child is over ten years old, you may sign below to allow him/her to leave the church without adult supervision. We recommend you make every effort to pick up any child regardless of age; however, we realize that some children walk or may be capable of going home on their own. Please sign below to indicate you accept responsibility for your child (over ten) to leave on his/her own at the end of the evening.

- o My child will be picked up in the sanctuary each evening.
- o My child may leave on his/her own at the end of each evening.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please sign here if you will allow your child's photograph to be taken at Shake It UP Café Vacation Bible School and posted within the church building.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Due to the new UMC Safe Sanctuary policy, registration forms must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian!

Questions? Please call 654-0961.

Please bring a canned good for CAP!

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Education Mtg. 11:30 AM Brief Council Mtg.	2 6 PM Rebekah Circle	3 6 PM Finance Meeting 8 PM AA Meeting	4 10 AM Ruth Circle 6:30 PM Disciple I 7:30 PM NA Meeting	5 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	6 10 AM Disciple II 11 AM Soup Kitchen	7 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe
8 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg.	9 1:30 PM UIMW Unit Mtg.	10 8 PM AA Meeting	11 6:30 PM Disciple I 7:30 PM NA Meeting	12 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	13 10 AM Disciple II 11 AM Soup Kitchen	14
15 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Council Mtg. 7 PM Confirmation Service	16	17 8 PM AA Meeting	18 6:30 PM Disciple I 7:30 PM NA Meeting	19 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	20 10 AM Disciple II 11 AM Soup Kitchen 7 PM Youth Group Dance Party	21 Fellowship Hall Reserved 1:30 PM Fashion Show and Dessert Tea 4 PM Wedding Rehearsal
22 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 2 PM Wedding	23	24 8 PM AA Meeting	25 6:30 PM Disciple I 7:30 PM NA Meeting	26 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	27 10 AM Disciple II 11 AM Soup Kitchen	28 7:30 AM Youth Group - Pecometh Rope Course
29 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Esther Circle 11:30 AM Cook Out and Covered Dish	30	31				

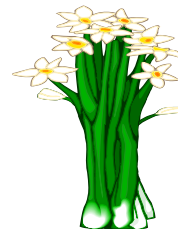
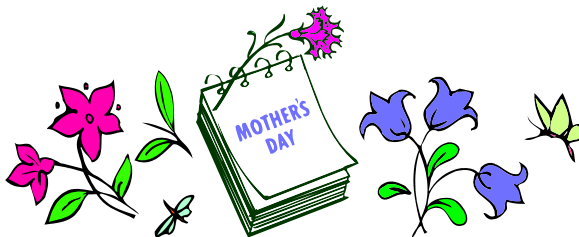
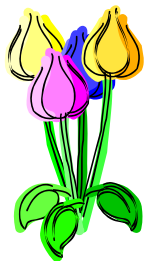
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“THE MESSENGER” MAY 2011

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



LAY READERS

May 1	The Youth Group
May 8	Melissa Hughes
May 15	Suzy Price
May 22	Kathy Russell
May 29	Rob Anderson

ALTAR FLOWERS

For the month of May, Ruth and Esther Circles
are responsible for the flowers.

ALTAR FLOWERS

May 1	Pastor Tom Pasmore
At the Cross	Harriet-Ann van Boven
May 8	Joyce and Jerry Toy
At the Cross	Joyce and Jerry Toy
At the Lectern	Bob Collins
May 15	Mary Alice Bair
May 22	Eve Thomas
May 29	John Burke
At the Cross	Bob Collins

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