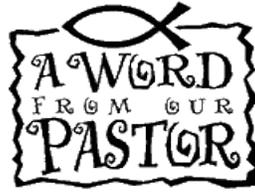


Richardson Park United Methodist Church
11 North Maryland Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19804-1305

Phone: 302-654-0961
Fax: 302-655-7446
E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org



But even now, says the Lord, repent sincerely and return to me with fasting and weeping and mourning. Let your broken heart show your sorrow; tearing your clothes is not enough. Come back to the Lord your God. He is kind and full of mercy; he is patient and keeps his promise; he is always ready to forgive and not punish.

- Luke 21:25-36 (The Good News Translation)

So, we find ourselves in the midst of another Lent. Ash Wednesday has come and gone and we are eagerly waiting for Easter to arrive. Fredrick Buechner reminds us of the importance of this holy season in his book, *Whistling in the Dark*. I have included an excerpt here that helps us embrace this season of reflection and repentance.

In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask, one way or another, what it means to be themselves.

If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?

When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?

If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less?

Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?

Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.

Amen.

Reflecting and repenting with you,

Pastor Tom



COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Each Wednesday at Noon

March 7

Calvary Presbyterian Church

Speaker: Carol Holt, Re-entry Mentors

March 14

St. James Episcopal Church

Speaker: Buzzy Cooke

March 21

Peniel UMC

Speaker: Stephanie Armstrong

March 28

St. Matthew Roman Catholic Church

Stations of the Cross

Please join the noon prayer services during Lent, followed by a light lunch.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 11.

TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Tina Holmes	3/1
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
Madison Keffer	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
Makani Johnson	3/18
Ella de Courcelle	3/20
Victoria Maher	3/20
David Rice	3/20
Tom Beane	3/22
Michael Coverdale	3/23
Austin Painter	3/23
James Keffer	3/24
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.



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 is located in the Extension.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



In March, Ruth and Esther Circles will take care of the flowers in the church.

Circle Meetings

Esther Circle	Sunday, March 25 11:30 AM Extension
Rebekah Circle	Tue., March 6 7:00 PM After Moravian Love Feast
Ruth Circle	Wed., March 7 10:00 AM Church Lounge

Circle Leaders

Esther Circle	Yvonne Mitten
Rebekah Circle	Marlene Johnson
Ruth Circle	Lee Powell

MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST

**Tuesday, March 6 7 PM
Extension**

*"A new commandment I give to you...even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."
John 13:34*

The United Methodist Women are having the Moravian Love Feast. This devotional time will include readings, hymns, and hot cross buns with cocoa to drink. Please see Marlene Johnson if you have questions or would like to sign up for this time together during Lent.

WESLEY TOWER BANKS

February 2012 \$103.49

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Our total to date for 2012 is \$142.02. Empty banks can be picked up as you leave the altar area each Communion Sunday. **AGAIN, THANKS FOR SAVING YOUR CHANGE.**

KIDS' KORNER



Greetings from the Lower Sunday School - Grades K - 3. During the month of February, we learned that Jesus is able to care for our hurts; miracles were performed so people would believe; and Jesus' power came from God. We used experiments, skits, and drawings to enforce our lessons. In March, we are studying friends. The class will meet Zacchaeus, glimpse Jesus comforting his friends (disciples) during a storm, and learn that real friends care for you even if you disappoint them. Our study of these events will lead us to Holy Week. The children's discussions and skits are always wonderful. Come visit us on the Lower Level.

Blessings from Ms. Marlene

KOINONIA FELLOWSHIP

The Koinonia Fellowship met in the Extension on Saturday, February 18. We enjoyed a delicious pot luck dinner, which included shrimp cocktail, meatballs, potato salad, sweet potatoes, and much, much more. Kathy Russell and Dave Rogers joined us, and they are interested in starting a Jr. Koinonia in the near future. The business of the evening entailed plans for our upcoming yard sale on March 2 and March 3.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR YARD SALE

**Friday, March 2 9 AM - 4 PM
Saturday, March 3 8 AM - 2 PM**

Plan to join us for lunch either day and browse the merchandise for a hidden treasure. The yard sale has something for everyone!

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.



FOOD FOR CAP

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

Cereal, oatmeal, boxed potatoes,
boxed sides, peanut butter,
jelly, peas, beans and
non-perishable items.

THRIFT STORE NEEDS..

Clean and sized clothing,
detergent and bleach,
paper products, diapers,
sanitary items, and
aluminum cans to recycle.

ST. PATRICK'S PARTY FIVE POINTS FIRE COMPANY FRIDAY, MARCH 16 7 PM - 12 MIDNIGHT

The Five Points Fire Company is holding a St. Patrick's Party on Friday, March 16 from 7 PM to Midnight. Cost is \$30.00 per person which includes a buffet and beverages. The buffet is available from 7 PM - 8 PM. For more information, call 302-376-6025 or the EVENT LINE at 302-994-0114, EXT. 6. Leave your name and phone number and someone will get back to you.

YARN NEEDED

- **The Carewear Project** is in need of yarn donations to support their volunteer crafters. In 2011, Carewear donated 5,400 hats, scarves, sweaters, mittens, chemo caps, afghans, slippers, lap robes, and baby items to populations served by social service agencies in New Castle County. They are in need of full or nearly full skeins of yarn. For more information, contact Susan at 302-528-4617 or Sandy Ide at 593-3395. Donations may be left in the church office, marked Carewear Project.
- **The UMW** is always sharing God's love through various projects. Ladies have made baby blankets for little ones when the need arose at CAP, lap robes for the VA hospital, and now prayer shawls.

Whether they are called Prayer Shawls, Comfort Shawls, Peace Shawls, or Mantles, etc., the shawl maker begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient. The intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. Upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the shawl is sent on its way. Thus, the blessing ripples from person to person, with both the giver and the receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a loving God!

If you would like further information, would like to share a prayer, or donate your time or yarn, please contact Marlene Johnson or Lee Powell.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY



Sunday, April 1 – 10:30 AM

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 5

12:00 PM Peniel UMC

7:00 PM Richardson Park UMC

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE



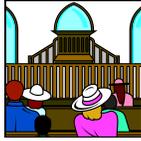
Friday, April 6 – 12:00 PM
Peniel United Methodist Church
Passion Readings

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, April 8 - 6:30 AM
St. James Episcopal Church Cemetery

10:30 AM R.P.U.M.C. Sanctuary





Laity Enlightenment

The past several months have been a blur. I don't know if you've noticed but the last time I wrote an article for the Messenger was back in July of 2011. Technically, I wrote the article in June for the July newsletter. That's almost 9 months ago! Where has the time gone?

Well, let me recapitulate the months since last I wrote. In June of 2011, I focused my attention on Vacation Bible School, lots of planning, preparation, teaching, singing, experimenting and fun! Then in July, the DuPont Company transferred me from the Stine Haskell Research Center to the Experimental Station Laboratories. This was more than a little disruptive to my life. In August, we had a tornado, an earthquake and a hurricane all within a two- to three-week period. Talk about disruptive! Destructive is probably a better word. All summer long the DuPont Diversity Choir practiced during our usual break time to perform in Washington at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Dedication Ceremony in October. On October 3, my fourth grandchild was born! Kamryn came a little earlier than expected but I was blessed to witness the miracle of birth from a completely new perspective. November, Thanksgiving; December Christmas; January, a New Year and a new list of things to do! Need I say more?

It suffices to say that I've been very busy and I came to realize that I've missed writing articles for the Messenger. I missed more than just writing the article; I missed the whole process of putting an article together. I missed pondering what God would have me write about, praying for inspiration and for readers to actually get something out of whatever I wrote. I missed the time spent reading the concordance and the Bible, searching for an appropriate topic or scripture to go with that topic. I missed putting

words on paper, editing and reading the finished product that would speak to some aspect of the life of the church or the lives of the laity. I realized how much I enjoyed writing and communing with God to help me produce a single article. I realized how much I've been missing.

Somehow I let my life get in the way of this very important part of my spiritual growth and connection to God. I still prayed to God but not for inspiration for an article (and not as often as before I got so "busy"). I still read the Bible but not in the same manner. I still spoke with the Pastor about the life of the church and the lives of the laity, but I didn't take the time to translate any of this into writing and put it in an article for the Messenger. And for me, writing something down always solidifies the subject, somehow emphasizing its importance, making it clearer or easier to remember. I've found I need the writing (and typing) process to firm up a concept in my mind. It serves as a way to mull over, study and focus on the topic. In this case the topic is God.

I can't promise I'll write an article every month but I have made a promise to myself to be mindful of my priorities. Putting God first will put everything else in its proper place. There will be time for family and friends. There will be time for singing. There will be time for cultivating a successful career. God will make sure I'm taken care of if I take care to keep my focus on God.

I'll leave you with a scripture passage from Psalm 119:35-37 (NCV)...

"Lead me in the path of your commands, because that makes me happy. Make me want to keep your rules instead of wishing for riches. Keep me from looking at worthless things. Let me live by your word." AMEN!

Your Lay Leader, Kathy Russell



YOUTH NEWS



Christ has no body but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to bless us now.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

[workcampsSM]

home repair youth mission camps

At Workcamps, youth groups come together to serve individuals and communities, while building strong, long-lasting relationships with their friends and youth leaders, in six short days, hundreds of kids from youth groups across the country will repair and transform homes while strengthening and transforming their own faith.

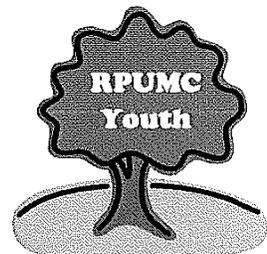
We are hoping that our youth group can participate this summer at a Group Workcamp in Ocean View, DE. More information will be available as we get closer to summer, but you can support the youth right now by praying for God to move within our youth group and continue to bring opportunities for service.

If you would like to participate in the trip to Ocean View, you must make sure the following happens before MARCH 15:

- 1) Be in Senior High (age 14-19) and active in youth group.
- 2) Reserve the dates June 24-30, 2012 for the trip.
- 3) Let Pastor Tom know that you are going!
- 4) Fill out the forms and pay \$100 non-refundable deposit.

IMPORTANT DATES

- March 4 —
Regular Youth
Group at 5:30pm
- March 11 —
Regular Youth
Group at 5:30pm
- March 18 —
Regular Youth
Group at 5:30pm
- March 25 —
Bake sale fund-
raiser following
worship at 11:30a
- April 1 —
Regular Youth
Group at 5:30pm
- April 13-15 — Girls'
Chrysalis Weekend
- April 27-29 — Boys'
Chrysalis Weekend
- May ?? — White-
water Rafting trip
to the Poconos
- June 24-30 —
Mission Trip to
Ocean View, DE !!



GREEN TEAM IS COMING!

On Saturday, February 25, several of us went to a seminar hosted by the Delaware Interfaith Power and Light and presented by Andrew Rudin at Limestone Presbyterian Church. Andrew works with congregations around the country performing energy audits and helping them to realize ways that they can become more energy efficient. He presented many interesting facts in regard to energy consumption in churches, along with ideas that we could possibly implement to create energy savings. As a result, several of us here at RPUMC have decided that we could put together a "Green Team." The team will get together and discuss possible strategies for short- and long-term energy savings and alternatives. The purpose of this team would be to investigate the means and the methods to reduce our energy footprint and then present them to Church Council, the Trustees, and the Building Maintenance Group (BMG) for approval and implementation. We plan to get together toward the end of March to set some goals.

If this is a team that you would like to work with, please contact Rob Anderson at robanderson21@comcast.net or 302-633-0201.



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 Thursday, March 22. Cost of each plant is \$8.00. Please make your check payable to Richardson Park United Methodist Church and mark "Easter Lilies."

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.

March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Fellowship Hall Res. 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch - RPUMC No Kids Café 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	2 Fellowship Hall Res. 9 AM YARD SALE AND YE OLDE SHOPPE 10 AM Discipleship Exp. 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel	3 Fellowship Hall Res. 8 AM YARD SALE AND YE OLDE SHOPPE
4 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Worship Committee Meeting 5:30 PM Youth Group	5 6 PM Discipleship Exp.	6 7 PM Moravian Love Feast Rebekah Circle 8 PM AA Meeting	7 10 AM Ruth Circle 12 PM Community Service - Calvary 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting	8 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch - RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	9 10 AM Discipleship Exp. 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel	10
11 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg. 11:30 AM Education Mtg. 5:30 PM Youth Group	12 6 PM Discipleship Exp.	13 8 PM AA Meeting	14 12 PM Community Service - St. James 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting	15 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch - RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	16 10 AM Discipleship Exp. 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day
18 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 5:30 PM Youth Group	19 6 PM Discipleship Exp.	20 8 PM AA Meeting	21 12 PM Community Service - Peniel 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting	22 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch - RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	23 10 AM Discipleship Exp. 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel	24
25 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Council Mtg. 11:30 AM Esther Circle 11:30 AM Youth Group Bake Sale	26 6 PM Discipleship Exp.	27 8 PM AA Meeting	28 12 PM Stations of the Cross - St. Matthew 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting	29 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch - RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	30 10 AM Discipleship Exp. 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel	31

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Wilmington, DE
Permit No. 162

“THE MESSENGER” MARCH 2012

Return Postage Guaranteed
Address Service Requested

Office Phone: (302) 654-0961 Office Hours: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM T-F FAX #: (302) 655-7446
Parsonage Phone: (302) 652-6168 E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org
Tom Pasmore, Pastor



LAY READERS

March 4	Melissa Hughes
March 11	Joan Stadelman
March 18	Kristi Doughty
March 25	Pat Cummings

ALTAR FLOWERS

March 4	Tony and Glenda Donnelly
March 11	Jay and Pat Cummings
March 18	Joan Stadelman
March 25	Carolyn Swain

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

* * * * *

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING FOOD FOR
CAP THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

* * * * *

Please submit your articles for the
April Messenger to the church office by
Wednesday, March 7. 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.*