

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

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Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.”

- Matthew 16:24-27 (New Revised Standard Version)

As many of you already know, at 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 19, I went down to the James T. Vaughan Correctional Center to pray for condemned murderer Shannon Johnson; his victim, Cameron Hamlin; and the family of the victim. Murder is the most awful crime imaginable—one that only resurrection can repair. As the hours wore on before Shannon Johnson was pronounced dead at 2:55 a.m. on Friday, I began to wonder if it was really worth standing out in a field holding a sign and a candle and praying for God to intervene. I really wanted to go home to my warm bed and pray to God from behind my closed eyelids. I was bone weary and beat tired.

It was right about this point that I was reminded by a colleague of a quote from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “If you haven’t discovered something that is worth dying for, you haven’t found anything worth living for.” Ouch. I guess I can stay out here and be in prayer for a little while longer, I told myself. I knew that eventually I would be able to slide into my warm bed and continue on with my life. Even with our pleas to God, Cameron Hamlin and Shannon

Johnson will never have that opportunity again. And our world is diminished as a result.

The word ‘martyr’ is Greek for ‘witness.’ The witness of those earliest Christians to their faith in Jesus Christ was so powerful that the word ‘witness’ became associated with death. The question that I have is, “What do we find worth dying for today?” We are the most comfortable Christians in the history of the world. How are we going to face God when we are asked what did you stand up for? Who did you help? In what ways is God’s Creation a better place because you were part of it?

As we approach Pentecost, I invite you to consider what it means for you to be a follower of Jesus Christ and what you are willing to lose your life for.

May you be filled with God’s Holy Spirit,

*Pastor Tom*

**SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY**



At a special service on *Sunday, May 6*, young people from local United Methodist Churches will be confirmed at a joint celebration at *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*.

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***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 3 Worship Service.

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**KIDS CAFÉ**

The end of the year is fast approaching - where did the time go? We have been so blessed this year with tutors, kitchen staff and a grand group of kids. During May, we will be making something special for Mother's Day and we will be celebrating the end of our year on May 10. We will have the annual talent show. The children always amaze us with their talents. Ms. Janet and I also might have a few surprises. The children will have to wait for May 10! Have a great summer.

Ms. Marlene

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLEAN-UP DAY AT RPUMC**

Please join us on Saturday, May 5 from 9 AM to 1 PM to help with a Spring Clean-up around the church. We will be doing some gardening and sprucing up the grounds. Please contact Pastor Tom if you are interested in helping.





## 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
Jacob Gommer	May 6
Johnathan Gommer	May 6
Katie Meadows	May 6
Destiny Dale	May 7
Zach Farley	May 7
Cliff Campbell	May 8
Shirley Roberts	May 8
Doc Holliday	May 9
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
Brianna Jones	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
Terri Weaver	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 Circle will take care of the flowers in the church.

## Circle Meetings

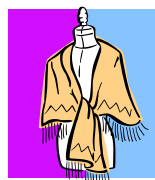
Rebekah Circle      Tues., May 15  
Outing - TBD

Ruth Circle              Wed., May 2      10:00 AM  
Church Lounge

## Circle Leaders

Rebekah Circle              Marlene Johnson  
Ruth Circle                      Lee Powell

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



## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The UMW keeps busy! Our "prayer shawl ministry" has surpassed even our dreams. The folks of RPUMC have responded with such support - THANK YOU! Our fingers are kept busy sharing God's love and prayers through these shawls. We have given shawls to many folks at RPUMC and friends from other walks of life who need to know God's love surrounds them.

Blessings from the  
Prayer Shawl Ladies



**WESLEY TOWER BANKS**  
**April 2012                      \$112.04**

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Our year-to-date total is \$322.77. 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 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.

***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. Furniture is available for sale on Saturdays.*



**CHANCEL CHOIR**

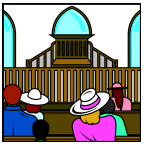
The Chancel Choir's final practice before summer is Thursday, May 31.

**KIDS' KORNER**

Greetings from the Lower Sunday School!!!! In the Lower Sunday School (K-Grade 3), we are studying the disciples (followers) of Jesus. We learn that Jesus does not leave us but is always ready to listen when we talk to Him through prayer. We will follow Paul and Silas as they spread the word of God to many, many people. What adventures they had! We will end with a celebration of “Heroes of Faith.” Our lessons again will be supplemented by hands-on applications such as skits, songs, and lively discussions!

**HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!**

Blessings from Ms. Marlene



## ***Laity Enlightenment***

The March issue of National Geographic magazine displayed on the cover a picture of the Last Supper along with the words, "The Journey of the Apostles." There was an article inside entitled, "In the footsteps of the Apostles." These words were emblazoned like a banner across a picture of a Franciscan Priest at the Tomb of Christ in Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulcher with light streaming down over everything. The article was a lesson in Biblical history that plotted the course of each Apostle's travels in their mission to share the teachings of Jesus after his death.

Not only did the article detail their wanderings, achievements and eventual deaths, most of which were brutal and came at the hand of their persecutors, but it also included short biographies of some of today's apostles in different countries. One example of a 19-year-old young man in India showed his scarred thigh from an eight-hour beating by Hindu extremists who attacked his village in 2008, which he endured because he refused to renounce his Christian faith. This article was not for the faint of heart as it described what is traditionally believed to be the fates of 11 of the Apostles; all martyred for their beliefs. Peter, Andrew and Phillip were crucified; James the Greater and Thaddeus fell by the sword; James the Lesser was praying for his attackers while they beat him to death; Bartholomew was crucified after being flayed alive; Matthias was stoned; Thomas and Matthew were speared and Simon was either crucified or sawed in half. John was the last of the twelve to survive and was thought to have died peaceably around the year 100.

This past Lenten season, Pastor Tom took us on a journey of our own each Sunday over the weeks leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection. We anticipated going somewhere new and planned for it. We packed, carried

around and off loaded our baggage. We went on a spiritual road trip far away and eventually came home renewed and refreshed. And we did all this from the comfort of our church's sanctuary.

Sanctuary...the word itself I believe is meant to evoke feelings of safety and satisfaction, security and comfort. Imagine for a moment wandering over miles of uncharted wilderness, meeting strangers in strange lands, bringing an unknown and unbelievable story to people who would not easily embrace you or the message of faith you were telling, leaving you in hostile territory. This is not the sort of trip we would want to take, let alone pay dearly for.

The article in National Geographic also included many familiar scriptures from the Easter story, as did Pastor Tom's worship services. Recall that Thomas doubted that it was Jesus who stood before him resurrected. Jesus said to Thomas, "Reach your hand here, and put it in my side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing" (John 20:27). Thomas is now accredited with bringing Jesus' message to India where today there are some 27 million Christians. Jesus said to the Apostles, "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves" (Matthew 10:16). Jesus knew that believing, teaching and preaching throughout the lands would not be easy. Thankfully the Apostles did carry the message far and wide and, because of this, it is estimated that there are over two billion Christians in the world today.

As modern day apostles, we don't have to travel far from our homes or live in constant fear of death to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. We can easily convey the love of our Lord and Savior in our day-to-day interactions with everyone we encounter with a kind gesture, a smile, an offer of words of encouragement or lending a helping hand to someone in need. And we always should be ready to defend our faith with the story of how we became Christians. Go in peace carrying the Love of God with you every day of your personal journey.

Kathy Russell

# LIVE at the Franklin Institute

A poster for the 'Dead Sea Scrolls' exhibition. The background is black with a large, irregularly shaped piece of ancient parchment on the left side, featuring Hebrew text. The title 'DEAD SEA SCROLLS' is written in large, bold, white capital letters across the center. Below it, 'LIFE AND FAITH IN ANCIENT TIMES' is written in smaller white capital letters. The dates 'MAY 12 - OCTOBER 14, 2012' are in orange, and 'IN THE MANDELL CENTER' is in white. At the bottom, there are logos for 'In partnership with ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY' and 'רשות העתיקות' (Israel Antiquities Authority), along with a small image of a scroll and a globe.

**DEAD SEA SCROLLS**  
**LIFE AND FAITH IN ANCIENT TIMES**  
MAY 12 - OCTOBER 14, 2012  
IN THE MANDELL CENTER

In partnership with ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY רשות העתיקות

**Daytime Admissions (9:30AM - 5:00PM)**

**Individual Tickets**

Adults: \$31.50

Children ages 3-11: \$25.00

*Daytime tickets also include General Admission to the museum.*

**The Franklin Institute | 222 North 20th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 | 215.448.1200**

## Journey Into Mission:

HOW TO BE IN MISSION AT HOME OR AWAY

**May 19, 2012 8:30AM-3:00PM**

**Asbury UMC, Salisbury MD**

Workshops:

- **Ramp Building Training** – Hands-on experience to take home with you.
- **Volunteers in Mission Leader Training** Led by Greg Forrester, UMVIM
- **Sewing for Mission** – Bring your machine and sew together using patterns provided.
- **Mission Central HUB Training** – Learn from those who already participate in this ministry and find out how you and people in your area can be involved in UMCOR Kit ministry and more.
- **Stop Hunger Now** – Come out and assemble food packs for hungry people all over the world. We will assemble 2500 meals.



**UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION**

*Christian love in action!*

**Cost is \$5.00 per person**

**Breakfast and lunch are included.**


**See Pastor Tom if you are interested!!**



# YOUTH NEWS



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**Name:**  
John Wesley

**Places in:** London

**Marital Status:** Separated

**Kids:** None

**Quotable Quote:** "The best of all is that God is with us."

**Religious Views:** Anglican

**Occupation:** Priest

**Known as:**  
Reformer, preacher, hymn-writer, zombie killer

**Favorite hobbies/activities:**  
Taking communion; morning, afternoon, and evening prayer; writing down everything I do

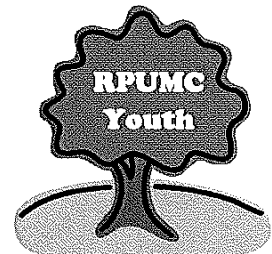
**Pet peeves:** Sinfulness

**Travels:**  
I went to America once. Don't ask me about it.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- May 6 — Regular Youth Group at 5:30pm
- May 13 — NO Youth Group (Mother's Day!)
- May 20 — Regular Youth Group at 5:30pm
- May 26 — White-water Rafting trip to the Poconos
- June 24 — Mission Trip to Ocean View

Join us for Youth Group in May as we take a look at our own Methodist roots. Did this guy John Wesley really start a whole brand spanking new denomination???? Really?????







## **Richardson Park UMC VBS 2012**

**June 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>**

**11 N. Maryland Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19804  
302-654-0961**



Your children will become divers-in-training at **OPERATION OVERBOARD** as we plunge into God's Word and discover stories of deep faith. Each day they will be given a new challenge: Depend on God; dare to care; claim Jesus; choose to follow; and change the world.

After dinner there is a high-energy opening at Ocho's Cove (our sanctuary), where your divers make their way to the Underwater Passage. Interactive Bible lessons reveal five ocean insights for living as a follower of God, and your divers will learn Sea Scripture memory verses that will boost their faith long after VBS. The children will expand on what they've learned by participating in a variety of activities: Making their own art projects at Aquatic Arts; singing new music at Ocho's Cove; exploring science activities at Exploration Station; and participating in recreational activities at High Tide Hangout.

**Children Pre-school through Grade 6, Dive right in!**

**VBS begins at 5:30pm with dinner and ends at 8:00pm each day.**

**All activities begin in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Thursday @ 7:45pm we will have a program and celebration to close out our week.**

**Adult and Youth volunteers are needed!**



**REGISTER BY JUNE 10 TO RECEIVE A FREE COPY OF THE  
"OPERATION OVERBOARD" MUSIC CD FOR YOUR FAMILY.**



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 17 - THURSDAY, June 21  
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH GRADE 6*

NOTE: HELPERS (7<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> 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 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>2</b> 10 AM Ruth Circle 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting	<b>3</b> 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch Thursdays-RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	<b>4</b> 10 AM Discipleship Experience 11 AM Free Lunch Fridays-Peniel UMC	<b>5</b> 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe
<b>6 FH Reserved</b> 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Worship Team 5:30 PM Youth Group	<b>7</b> 6 PM Discipleship Experience	<b>8</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>9</b> 7:30 PM NA Meeting	<b>10</b> 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch Thursdays-RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	<b>11</b> 10 AM Discipleship Experience 11 AM Free Lunch Fridays-Peniel UMC	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Trustees Meeting	<b>14</b> 6 PM Discipleship Experience	<b>15</b> Rebekah Circle Outing 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>16</b> 7:30 PM NA Meeting	<b>17</b> 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch Thursdays-RPUMC 6:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	<b>18</b> 10 AM Discipleship Experience 11 AM Free Lunch Fridays-Peniel UMC	<b>19 FH Reserved</b>
<b>20</b> 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Mission Committee Meeting 11:30 AM Education Meeting 5:30 PM Youth Group	<b>21</b> 6 PM Discipleship Experience	<b>22</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>23</b> 7:30 PM NA Meeting	<b>24</b> 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch Thursdays-RPUMC 6:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	<b>25</b> 11 AM Free Lunch Fridays-Peniel UMC	<b>26</b> Youth Group White Water Rafting Trip
<b>27</b> 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 PM Council Meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>30</b> 7:30 PM NA Meeting	<b>31</b> 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch Thursdays-RPUMC 6:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting		

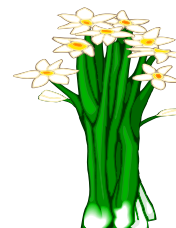
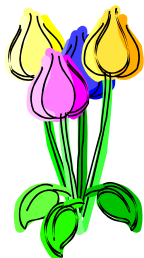
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WILMINGTON, DE 19804-1305

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# “THE MESSENGER” MAY 2012

## Address Service Requested

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



### LAY READERS

May 6	Jim Chilcutt
May 13	Lillian Simmons
May 20	Brenda Tucker
May 27	Dave Rogers

### ALTAR FLOWERS

May 6	Roger Longest
At the Cross	Tom and Sarah Pasmore
May 13	Joyce and Jerry Toy
At the Cross	Joyce and Jerry Toy
At the Lectern	Bob Collins
May 20	Mary Alice Bair
May 27	Eve Thomas

### ALTAR FLOWERS

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

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Please submit your articles for the June Messenger to the church office by Tuesday, June 12. Thank You.

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

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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.*