

Richardson Park United Methodist Church
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“And he [Jesus] said to them, “Therefore, every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings forth out of his treasure things new and old.”

— Matthew 13:52- Luke 21:25-36 (The Good News Translation)

I read this note from Rev. Dave Humphrey, senior pastor at Mariner’s Bethel UMC and the hometown son of Carroll Humphrey and Peniel UMC. It was so good that I thought I would share it with you all . . .

Six thousand—that is how many scent receptor cells the sinuses of a human being contain. 300 million—by contrast, that is how many receptor cells the sinuses of the average beagle contain, fifty times more cells for smells. We humans tend to rely primarily upon sight, and secondarily upon our other senses, to perceive and navigate our world. Dogs, by contrast, can see, hear, feel, and taste also, but their primary means of perceiving and navigating their world is their sense of smell.

When Jesus speaks of the Kingdom of God in his parables, he almost speaks of a sixth sense, a gift of grace that comes to us with the Kingdom he proclaimed. Can you spiritually smell what God is up to? We humans can utilize this sense in spiritually discerning what God is doing, and how incredibly valuable are his gifts, and healing, and forgiveness, and presence in this world. These kingdom gifts and activities are always new, always fresh, always good, even in the

midst of a lot of non-kingdom forces and realities. My prayer for us in the new year is that our ability as a congregation to discern together both what is best in the treasury of our shared past, and what new things God is up to in our midst—that this sensitivity would grow and mature.

O Lord, may we at Mariner’s (and at Richardson Park UMC!) discern both the best of our past and the new ways you are bringing life and salvation to vulnerable, broken people in our midst, and to the vulnerable, broken places deep within ourselves. What new thing will you do in our midst this year? How will you use the best of our past, in order to bring even deeper healing to your people and greater glory to yourself? Enliven the grace-awakened spiritual receptors within us, we pray, in order to answer this question. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Praying with you all!!

Pastor Tom

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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

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



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

Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle Tues., Feb. 5 7:00 p.m.
Home of Marlene Johnson
Please contact Marlene for your assignment.

Ruth Circle Wed., Feb. 6 10:00 a.m.
Church Lounge

**Unit Meeting Sunday, February 17
11:30 a.m.**

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.

UPPER ROOM MEAL

On Monday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m., the UMW will host the Upper Room Meal. This is a very meaningful worship time. Everyone gathers in the church Extension by 6:15 p.m., comes together as a group and proceeds to Fellowship Hall. This service is conducted in silence (except for the readers). The cost of the meal is \$5.00, payable in advance. Everyone is welcome. Please see Pat Cummings or a UMW member for further details.

The UMW's Shower for Baby Jesus was held on Sunday, December 2. Many delicious dishes and desserts were enjoyed. We were happy to have some men and women who are not members of the UMW join us in celebration of Jesus' birth. Hundreds of dollars' worth of diapers, wipes, bottles, onesies, blankets, and more were donated to CAP for the benefit of their "Bundles for Newborns" program. A good time was had by all.



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.



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 12 5 – 7:30 PM

Peniel United Methodist Church

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

February 13

NOON - Richardson Park UMC

7 PM - Peniel UMC

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Each Wednesday at Noon

- February 20 Calvary Presbyterian
Speaker: Ed Brandt
- February 27 St. James Episcopal
Speaker: Katie LeFranc
- March 6 Peniel UMC
Speaker: Bob Hall
- March 13 Richardson Park UMC
Speaker: Rev. Vincent
Oliver
- March 20 St. Matthew RCC
Stations of the Cross

Please join the noon prayer services during Lent, followed by a light lunch. No lunch will be served on March 20.

A BELATED THANK YOU

Thanks to all those who worked really hard in December to make the music for Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve very special. Thanks to the choir members who were so patient with me and did a wonderful job. Thanks to Kristin Fleming for her lovely flute accompaniment and the handbell ringers who did a great job with only two weeks of practice. Thanks also to Sath Amara for his violin solo and Kathy Rogers for singing with me. God bless you all. Let's keep making music!

Benda Tucker

KIDS' KORNER



Greetings from Room 3!! Room 3 has been very busy. Each child finished their "Symbols of Christmas" banner to take home. In January, we were "bag-head" artists to help understand that "Jesus is the light of the world." What is a "bag-head" artist? Children wore paper bags (yes, they could breathe) and drew self-portraits without the benefit of light. This active Bible story showed how Jesus brought light to a world darkened by sin. Another week, we learned "God can make us clean inside." To illustrate this lesson, colored chalk was used. We could wash our hands as God can clean our souls. We then made "magic treasure boxes" to hold Psalm 51:1-2, 10. Hope to see you in Sunday school.

Blessings from Ms. Marlene

KIDS CAFÉ UPDATE

Our winter session started on January 3. The children were ready to participate in all of the activities. The creative time and story are usually connected. We made bird feeders from popcorn and raisins and cranberries. That evening the story was "Crow Call." We celebrated national hat day by making individually styled hats. What a collection that was! Of course, the story was about hats. The children seem anxious to come and they have improved in their school work. It is an exciting evening.

Many thanks to our church family for the generous Christmas gifts. Your thoughtfulness and support are very important to us. May God bless you in the new year.

Tom, Wendy and Harriet Ann

KOINONIA FELLOWSHIP

The Koinonia Fellowship met on Friday, December 21. We enjoyed a delicious covered-dish dinner followed by a short business meeting. It was good to have our president, Sandy Ide, with us. Clyde Nafzinger led us in devotions and asked us to remember the families in Connecticut. It was decided to close the Shoppe until Thursday, January 10. Business in the Shoppe was brisk during November and December. It was decided to send \$200 to Camp Pecometh for the Riverfront Restoration Project. Ed Ide asked to be replaced as secretary and Sue Durkee graciously accepted this position. March 15 and 16 were set for our next Great Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale. Secret Santa funny gifts were then distributed.

We met again on Friday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. After a short meeting, desserts and snacks were shared and we enjoyed another of our popular Game Nights. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, February 15 at 6:00 p.m. This will be a covered-dish dinner. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS UPDATE

Just a reminder - a fund has been created to cover the cost of extensive repairs to the many stained glass windows in the church. It is encouraging that some people have taken the initiative to give weekly or monthly to this fund. To date, we have collected \$4,022. Please be assured that no amount is too small. I know we can do this.

Betty Swain



WESLEY TOWER BANKS

November 2012 \$85.32
December 2012 \$57.15
Our total for 2012 is \$1,001.06

January 2013 \$57.61

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.

YARD SALE INDOOR/OUTDOOR (WEATHER PERMITTING)

Friday, March 15
9 AM – 4 PM
&
Saturday, March 16
8 AM – 2 PM

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. Proceeds from the sale of items in the Shoppe support various Mission Projects.



YOUTH NEWS



What is Chrysalis??

Chrysalis is the growth stage between caterpillars and butterflies. While on the surface it may look like nothing is happening, the delicate process changes a caterpillar into a butterfly with wings and beautiful colors. This symbolizes that by giving ourselves over to Christ, he can transform us into beautiful new creations.

Chrysalis is a three-day spiritual renewal retreat that provides participants an opportunity to learn more about the faith, to experience Christian love and support, and a chance to make new commitments in their faith journey. The content of the three days focuses on God's grace, how one experiences Christ as friend in the body of Christ, and how one is called into discipleship, giving love to a needful world.

Wouldn't you like to know Christ more deeply?

Ask Pastor Tom for more details . . . Or to sign up for a Chrysalis weekend.

IMPORTANT DATES

- February 3 —
Regular Youth
Group at 4pm
Parents Meeting at
4pm too!!
- February 10 —
Regular Youth
Group at 4pm
- February 17 —
Youth Group
Breakfast Fund-
raiser immediately
after Worship
- February 24 —
Regular Youth
Group at 5:30pm
- April 11-13 — Girls'
Chrysalis Weekend
- April 20 —
Volunteer Day at
Camp Pecometh
- April 25-27 — Boys'
Chrysalis Weekend
- May 25 — Spring
FUN trip



Let God Transform You

By Rev. Constance Hastings, MSCC, NCC
Daybreak Counseling Services, Inc.

While the New Year offers a clean calendar and talk of New Year's Resolutions, it is well known that by the end of January many of these good intentions have been given up. Change is so very hard, and the cliché "Just say *No*" seems ridiculous. However, by understanding the full process of change, it may be easier to stick with the process and realize that within our created beings, the ability to be different people is very possible.

Psychologist Kurt Lewin noted that there are three stages in change: **Unfreeze, Change and ReFreeze**. The first, Unfreezing, is the most important in that the person is getting ready to change. While this may not be evident to those around her or him, it is internal in that it deals with one's motivation. The reasons for change have to be evaluated against the reasons not to change, pro's versus con's. Therefore, in one's thinking, thoughts move from, "No way I'm going to quit smoking. I enjoy it and I don't care what anyone else says about it." to "I really like smoking, but I can feel it is affecting my health." to "Well, maybe I should at least cut back some." No visible changes in behavior have happened, but the old ways of thinking are beginning to "unfreeze" and become less rigid. This process takes a while, so if it is March and your resolution is not accomplished, that still does not mean failure.

Change itself, again, is not instantaneous. The fear factor is likely to present itself in a major way. However, as persons in recovery learn, "When the pain is greater than the fear...", the first steps are taken. It means learning new ways of living and taking the time to understand and work with them. Losing weight first may require learning about exercise, nutrition and life style issues surrounding food. Support groups or counseling requiring accountability could be necessary to measure success. Having a role model to call is another help. Yet, in learning change, one must have the grace to accept mistakes will happen but are not a reason to give up altogether. It may be late summer now, but the resolution is still being worked.

Finally, the ReFreezing step is when new norms of behavior and living are being established or solidified. Caution still must be exercised at this time because relapse is always possible, especially if the change requires a major lifestyle renovation and new relationships in one's life. Ultimately, change requires the perception that this is the journey of life, that is, if one does not change and grow throughout life, life loses its purpose and meaning. Thus, by this time next year, it would be appropriate to evaluate the steps in this journey and consider again a New Year's Resolution, one that would realize and practice this sanctifying work of Christ in one's life.

"Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2b (NKJV)

Daybreak Counseling Services is a nonprofit clinical pastoral counseling agency that not only addresses the presenting issue or problem but also allows for the inclusion of spirituality within sessions. It is supported through payments determined on a sliding scale basis, private grants, and individual donations. Rev. Constance Hastings, a nationally certified counselor and United Methodist deacon, sees clients at St. Paul's and Atonement United Methodist Churches with both day and evening hours. Call 302-745-1042 for information or to make an appointment.

February 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 10 AM Discipleship – St. James 11 AM Free Lunch Peniel	2 FH Reserved 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe
3 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 4 PM Youth Group and Parents' Meeting	4	5 7 PM Rebekah Circle 8 PM AA Meeting	6 10 AM Ruth Circle 7:30 PM NA Meeting	7 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 8:15 PM AA Meeting	8 10 AM Discipleship – St. James 11 AM Free Lunch Peniel	9
10 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Education Mtg. 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg. 4 PM Youth Group	11	12 8 PM AA Meeting	13 Ash Wednesday 12 PM Ash Wednesday Service - RPUMC 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service - Peniel 7:30 PM NA Meeting	14 Valentine's Day 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 8:15 PM AA Meeting	15 10 AM Discipleship – St. James 11 AM Free Lunch Peniel	16
17 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Youth Group Breakfast Fund Raiser	18 Presidents' Day	19 7 PM CAP Meeting 8 PM AA Meeting	20 12 PM Community Lenten Service – Calvary Presbyterian 7:30 PM NA Meeting	21 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 8:15 PM AA Meeting	22 10 AM Discipleship – St. James 11 AM Free Lunch Peniel	23
24 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 12 PM Council Mtg. 5:30 PM Youth Group	25	26 8 PM AA Meeting	27 12 PM Community Lenten Service – St. James Episcopal 7:30 PM NA Meeting	28 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 8:15 PM AA Meeting		

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“THE MESSENGER” FEBRUARY 2013

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Tom Pasmore, Pastor



LAY READERS

February 3	Paul Weaver
February 10	Linda Keffer
February 17	Sherlynn Aurelio
February 24	Roger Longest

ALTAR FLOWERS

February 3	Charlene & Bruce Workman
February 10	Chancel Bells & Choir
At the Cross	Melissa Hughes
February 17	Bob Evely
February 24	Doris Munger
At the Cross	Bettie Smith

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 6. 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.*