

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

Phone: 302-654-0961
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When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

- Luke 24:50-53 (New International Version)

Charles Dickens once wrote: "Life is a series of comings and goings. That's just the way of it." I always try to keep this thought in the back of my mind. People come into our lives and go out of our lives on an almost continuous cycle. Sometimes we don't even recognize that it's happening. Sometimes we feel it with all of our being. New friendships are forming, new romances just beginning, while other relationships are drifting away or are forcibly wrenched from our hands. We see it in the Bible, too. Heroes, prophets, saints, and sinners were on earth for such a short time within the Scriptures and then they were gone. If our existence becomes fixed and static, it would cease to be called "life."

The only time that we as humans stop changing, growing, adapting, and moving forward, is when we are called home by our Creator. As I begin to contemplate the transitions that are about to take place in my, Sarah's, and the kids' lives, including our pending move to Avenue UMC in Milford on July 1st, I think about both the relationships that I will be losing and the new ones that will be forming. I will miss all of you so much when the time comes to leave Richardson Park. Being part of a community of faith requires that you be in relationship with others. So, when the time comes for someone to leave, it can be

an emotional and difficult experience. But, as followers of Jesus this is the natural order of things. We are called as disciples of Christ to "Go." (Just look at the end of the Gospel of Matthew, "Go . . . into all the world.") If the church is functioning as the missional community that it is called to be, then we are bringing people into relationship with Jesus and our community of faith and we are sending people out into the world to share the gospel and to expand the Kingdom of God. It should be natural for people to be coming and going from a missional community.

As the spiritual sheep dog (Jesus is the good shepherd) of Richardson Park, I will miss you all more than I can say and our time together will always have a special place within my heart. Remember always that itinerancy is just a part of what it means for me to live out my call to minister to the world, and I will expect that you all will do what you have to do to live out your call as you minister to the world, even when it's difficult.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Tom

SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY



At a special service on *Sunday, May 19 at 2:00 PM* young people from local United Methodist Churches will be confirmed at a joint celebration at *Richardson Park United Methodist Church*.



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 9 Worship Service.

KIDS CAFÉ

The end of the year is fast approaching - where did the time go? We have been so blessed this year with wonderful tutors, an amazing kitchen staff and a grand group of kids. We will be celebrating the end of our year on May 2 with our annual talent show. The children always amaze us with their talents! And there may even be a few surprises! Have a great summer.

Ms. Marlene

CLEAN-UP DAY AT RPUMC

Please join us on Saturday, June 1 from 8 AM to 3 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 or Mike Williams 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
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
Wendy Owen	May 21
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 7 6:00 PM
Dinner at Big Fish Grille

Ruth Circle Wed., May 8 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.



YOUTH CALENDAR FOR MAY

SUNDAY, MAY 5 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
COOKOUT

SUNDAY, MAY 12 NO YOUTH GROUP
ENJOY YOUR MOM'S COMPANY!

SUNDAY, MAY 19 2 PM
CONFIRMATION TO BE HELD AT RPUMC

SUNDAY, MAY 26 NO YOUTH GROUP
ENJOY MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND!



WESLEY TOWER BANKS
April 2013 \$81.88

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Our year-to-date total is \$257.44. 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, baby food,
- infant formula (up to 1 year) and
- non-perishable items.

THRIFT STORE NEEDS..

- Clean and sized SPRING AND SUMMER 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 BELLS AND CHANCEL CHOIR

There will be a meeting of the Chancel Bells, Chancel Choir, and the music director, Don McFarland, at 7 PM on Thursday, May 2. We hope you will be able to attend and welcome Don back to RPUMC.

KIDS' KORNER

Greetings from Room 3! During April, the children learned what it is to be a disciple and how people perceive them. We drew “partner pictures”...one child gave one-word clues as they drew. Was it the picture he was thinking about at the time? This was an exciting activity. We also learned about the disciple Peter (Luke 22) through his “diary.” Prayer was also a Sunday study. We played a game entitled “all ears” – and learned that God does listen to us (Luke 11). Room 3 also did a skit about Peter's escape. These varied activities capture the children's attention and make learning about the Bible quite interesting for all of us in Room 3!

Blessings from Ms. Marlene

HELP US CHANGE THE WORLD!

During the month of May, we will be helping one of our neighbors on Norway Avenue replace the worn out siding on her house. It is an opportunity to show the world what committed followers of Jesus can do when they reach out and love their neighbors. The project will start on Saturday, May 4 from 8 AM to 5 PM followed by dinner in Fellowship Hall. It is hoped that the project will be completed over the next couple of weekends. While we always need help on the worksite, we are asking all of our faithful friends who receive The Messenger to pray for our mission team as we do this important work. Please pray for our team, our homeowner, and our community. Help us to be a blessing during these difficult times. Thank you!

UPGRADE NEEDED FOR AUDIO AND VISUAL EQUIPMENT

RPUMC has many long-time, loyal parishioners who are now shut-ins and cannot attend our Sunday morning worship services. To accommodate these members, RPUMC has provided them with a CD and/or DVD which allows them to "attend" the services from their homes. The audio and visual equipment that was previously used is no longer functional. **WE ARE SEEKING YOUR HELP.** If you would like to make a donation to the Audio/Visual Equipment Fund, please write a check to RPUMC and note that it is for the Audio/Visual Equipment update. Checks can be dropped off at the church office or placed in the offering plates on Sunday mornings. Any amount will help and every dollar received will get us closer to our goal of \$2,000, so that we can again provide this service to our shut-in congregation. May the grace of God be with each and everyone of you!

MARROW DONOR REGISTRY DRIVE

Ages 18 to 44

Sunday, May 5 12 Noon – 4 PM

Richardson Park UMC – Fellowship Hall

Help us save a life. Elaine is a wonderful mother, great grandmother, and special friend to everyone at Cosmos. She was recently diagnosed with MDS, and the only cure is a Bone Marrow Transplant. Please show your support for Elaine and other patients in need by joining the "Be The Match Registry." All it takes is a cheek swab and you could be the one to save a life!

NEW DIRECTORY FOR RPUMC

We are planning to publish a new directory of church members and associates, but we need your help in making this directory as accurate as possible. Please contact the church office at 654-0961 if:

- You know someone who should be included;
- Your telephone number and/or cell phone number have changed;
- You have an email address you would like to share;
- You do not wish to have your telephone and/or cell phone number(s) published.

Photographs will not be included in this directory.

Any information you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

KOINONIA FELLOWSHIP

Our last meeting was held on Friday evening, April 19. After a short business meeting, we enjoyed a variety of snacks and desserts and then divided into three groups. One table played Chicken Foot Dominoes, one played pinnacle, and one played a new game brought by Barbara Sayles entitled "Triominoes." It wasn't long before the room was filled with joyous laughter. A good time was had by all. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, June 21 at 5:30 p.m. We will have an "Old-Fashioned Picnic" on the church grounds, weather permitting. There will not be a business meeting on this occasion.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW REPAIRS

The fund for refurbishing our many stained glass windows is steadily growing. Hopefully, the windows in most need of repair will be tackled first, and we are anxious to get started. In the near future, Betty Swain will be meeting with a representative of the company that will be doing the work and hopes to devise a plan to get started. Many thanks to all who have contributed. To date, the balance has grown to \$5,107, plus a \$750 transfer from the Special Fund, for a total of \$5,857. Please keep in mind that no amount is too small. Please keep us in your prayers and know that we are grateful for your support.



**Richardson Park UMC
VBS 2013**

June 23 to 27

11 N. Maryland Avenue

Wilmington, DE 19804

302-654-0961

We will enter an epic adventure that empowers kids to stand strong. At **Kingdom Rock** VBS, all of us will experience God's Word in fun and unforgettable ways! Each day, leaders reinforce one simple Bible truth—which makes it super easy for kids to remember and apply to real life as they “Stand Strong for God!”

Each night of Kingdom Rock holds a different adventure. After dinner in Fellowship Hall, we will gather at Court in the sanctuary to get ready with Sing and Play Rock. Then it's off to the destinations stations for some real fun. We will hear Epic Bible Adventures, try awesome new things at Imagination Station, play outside at Tournament Games, learn cool songs at Minstrel's Corner, and watch our favorite chipmunk get out of trouble at Chadder's Royal Theatre! So much fun and so little time! Finally, each night will end back in Court in the Sanctuary for Fanfare Finale. At the end of the week, we will have a special celebration in the Sanctuary for parents, family, and friends. Come One, Come All and join us for Kingdom Rock.

Children Pre-school through Grade 6

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

All activities begin in the Fellowship Hall.

Thursday @ 7 PM we will have a program and celebration to close out our week.

Adult and Youth volunteers are needed!

Stand Strong for God!



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 23 - THURSDAY, June 27
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH 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 **Kingdom Rock** 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!



SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY CAMPAIGN

This year on Mother's Day, May 12, RPUMC will honor our mothers and other important women in our lives by joining with United Methodists everywhere to raise money for Imagine No Malaria, a ministry of the United Methodist Church. Imagine No Malaria is launching the campaign so that mothers in Africa will be able to fight malaria and see their children grow into thriving adults. Eighty-five to 90 percent of deaths from malaria are women and children under the age of five.

We are making a difference! Today a child dies every 60 seconds from malaria; just a short time ago, it was every 30 seconds. The number of deaths per year has dropped from 1 million to about 655,000. Malaria is both preventable and treatable. There is currently a plan to eliminate malaria in our lifetime. It includes bed nets, medicine and training of health workers. A bed net costs \$10 and can protect four people from mosquito bites at night when the mosquitoes feed.

If you would like to give a contribution to help this worthy cause, please make your check payable to RPUMC and specify "Imagine No Malaria" on the memo line. One hundred percent of your donation will go directly to fighting malaria.

Special Mother's Day Campaign

I/we _____ honor the following women:

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Amount of Contribution: \$ _____



Laity Enlightenment

Spring is such an exciting time of year. The formation of new life seems to explode out of the earth from the cold dry remnants of the past winter. Flowers begin to break through the surface of the ground. Trees dress themselves with fresh new greenery along with buds that turn into colorful blossoms and sweet fruits. If you've ever watched time-lapsed photography of a plant growing and blooming, the change is very dramatic and impressive.

As you well know, nature must strike a delicate balance in order to produce all the glorious colors, textures and varieties of flora and fauna found on the earth. There are many ingredients that must be added together in the right amounts to produce the desired outcome. The sun, air, rain and soil all contribute to this collaboration of creation. And it seems obvious that only God's hand could direct this symphony of beauty and bounty.

When I was a young girl, my mother's father, Percy Strickland, had a small fruit tree orchard in his yard and I was fortunate to live right next door. He taught me a lot about the growing process and how to tell when a particular fruit was ripe for picking. Over the years, my children and I (and now Dave) have enjoyed picking fresh fruits from farms in the area. Our excursions have taken us from one end of Delaware to the other and into Maryland and Pennsylvania. We've picked strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, cherries, peaches, nectarines, plums, grapes and apples. There is something very satisfying about walking through a field of plants or trees that are loaded with perfectly ripened fruits, selecting each piece to take home and savoring the sweet flavor of your harvest.

The Bible tells us of a different kind of fruit in Galatians; the Fruit of the Spirit. It also speaks of the things to avoid so that these fruits may be cultivated in each of us with the help of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-25 reads:

"Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before; those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit."

Think about the list of personal characteristics given as the Fruit of the Spirit. These characteristics may or may not be inherent to our nature. It is true, however, that we can recognize when a person just seems to have an unlimited supply of patience. And we can all probably think of someone who we feel is exceptionally kind or gentle.

Now let's take a few moments to do a self-evaluation. On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being Jesus' perfection of these characteristics and 1 possessing none of the qualities of these characteristics. How would you rate yourself on each of the nine: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control? How do you think others would rate you in these same categories? Be honest with yourself. Which of the nine are you most lacking and which do you think is your strongest trait? Is there any one spiritual fruit in particular that you feel you have cultivated, nurtured and grown to maturity in your lifetime?

With God's help, I believe we can all produce a higher quality of these fruits within us. All the right ingredients, true desire to improve, earnest prayer, diligent effort, study of the Word, and the power of the Holy Spirit will help us to grow and be shining examples of God's love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Let us continue to practice, produce and bear witness to God's work in our lives for the benefit of everyone we meet, our families, friends and all God's children here on earth!

God Bless You, Kathy Rogers

May 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:30 PM NA Meeting	2 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 7 PM Chancel Bells and Chancel Choir Meeting 8:15 PM AA Meeting	3 10 AM Discipleship – Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch Peniel	4 Extension Res. FH Reserved 8 AM Mission Project 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe
5 FH Reserved 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Youth Cookout 12 PM Bone Marrow Dr. 2 PM Confirmation Wrap Up – St. Mark's	6 3 PM Alateen 6 PM Rebekah Circle 8 PM AA Meeting	7 10 AM Ruth Circle 7:30 PM NA Meeting	8 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 8:15 PM AA Meeting	9 FH Reserved 10 AM Discipleship – Peniel UMC 12 PM Pie Pickup 11 AM Free Lunch Peniel UMC	10 FH Reserved 10 AM Discipleship – Peniel UMC 12 PM Pie Pickup 11 AM Free Lunch Peniel UMC	11 FH Reserved 8 AM Mission Project
12 Mother's Day 9 AM Sunday School 9 AM New Member Class 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Education Mtg.	13 3 PM Alateen 8 PM AA Meeting	14 7:30 PM NA Meeting	15 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 8:15 PM AA Meeting	16 10 AM Discipleship – Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch Peniel	17 10 AM Discipleship – Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch Peniel	18 FH Reserved 8 AM Mission Project
19 Ext. Reserved 9 AM Sunday School 9 AM New Member Class 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg. 2 PM Confirmation Service and Reception	20 3 PM Alateen 8 PM AA Meeting	21 7:30 PM NA Meeting	22 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 8:15 PM AA Meeting	23 10 AM Discipleship – Peniel UMC 12 PM Pie Pickup 11 AM Free Lunch Peniel UMC	24 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC Discipleship Luncheon 2 PM Wedding Rehearsal	25 3 PM Wedding
26 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship	27 MEMORIAL DAY	28 3 PM Alateen 8 PM AA Meeting	29 7:30 PM NA Meeting	30 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 8:15 PM AA Meeting	31 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC	

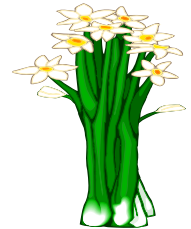
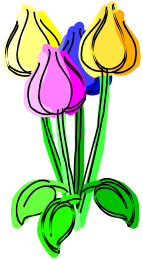
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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“THE MESSENGER” MAY 2013

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Tom Pasmore, Pastor



LAY READERS

May 5	Dave Rogers
May 12	Melissa Hughes
May 19	Linda Keffer
May 26	Tod Mitten

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

May 5	Roger Longest
At the Cross	Tom and Sarah Pasmore
May 12	Joyce and Jerry Toy
At the Cross	Joyce and Jerry Toy
At the Lectern	The Collins family
May 19	Mary Alice Bair
May 26	Alvretta Crozier
At the Cross	Eve Thomas

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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
Thursday, May 9. 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.*