

Richardson Park United Methodist Church  
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Greetings in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus the Christ!

It always amazes me that sometime in August the temperature begins to feel like fall. No matter when school starts, it seems as if there is a chill in the air. The back-to-school frenzy started at the end of July. I would guess that all but the real procrastinators have just about finished that end of summer exercise. But wait, as they say on the infomercials, what about back to church? During the summer, we cut back some of the ministries, especially those of study and discipleship. What kind of shopping do we need to do to get ready to be about the business of being the church?

As your "new" pastor, I am still learning names and faces. I have attended a few meetings to date, including my first Church Council meeting on August 25. I don't really know where your areas of focus are or what your heart-felt goals are, so I will wait.

I am a systems person when it comes to our work as a church. Hospitality becomes the first system that I look at in any new appointment. Do we have guests? Do guests return? If so, good; if not, why not? During the next few months I will be meeting with key leaders of our congregation so I can understand the hopes and dreams for God's church. Don't be surprised when I call you and invite you to a Saturday lunch at the recently painted parsonage. I just want to get to know you.

After my first message in July, many of you know that I am a justice-driven pastor. Welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, water to the thirsty, care for the sick and support for the prisoner are areas that help me express my faith in Jesus the Christ. However, my passion is around the knowledge that many have not heard the Good News and don't know that Jesus loves them and died for them. There are people around

us who don't know that forgiveness, peace and hope are available. I am looking for a few prayer warriors who will join me in prayer as we begin to draw on the power of the Holy Spirit to change lives. If you are interested in praying specifically for persons to come to know Jesus, let me know. We have work to do.

On Sundays, we receive many names on the prayer cards. Beginning in October, I will ask people to write on the back of the cards the name or names of persons who they know who have not received Christ so that I can be intentional about kingdom work. The "soon-to-be-formed" prayer Team will be called "The Gap." This team will become the nucleus of our evangelism ministry. We will lift up the general names but, specifically, we will be praying for persons to come to know and accept Christ. This is one of our primary mandates as followers of Christ.

Back to church means let's gear up for ministry. Evaluate what needs to be continued and also determine what needs to be discontinued. Two questions must be asked as we plan ministries: Will this bring anyone to Christ? Will this ministry help us become better disciples of Jesus the Christ?

Back to school means we are open to learning new lessons, back to church means the same. God is faithful and keeps promises. We are the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus. And, when we include his heart, we are caring about the people that he cared about and we can make a difference in our church, community, city, state, nation and the world. It's time to get to work. I pray that you are willing to join me as we claim this community for Christ, one soul at a time.

In Christ!  
Beverly B. Lewis



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jim Durkee	9/1
Tyler Hughart	9/2
Alanis Stout	9/2
Jean Van Vliet	9/4
Meghan Logullo	9/5
Ed Ide	9/6
Maggie Painter	9/6
George Brittingham	9/7
Bob Gamble	9/7
Richard Locke	9/7
Molly Mucha	9/7
Madison Mucha	9/10
Richard Allen	9/11
Sami Davidson	9/12
Norma Allen	9/13
Karen Davis	9/15
Patt Jones	9/15
Annette Ott	9/16
Jessica Saunders	9/16
Patricia Pugh	9/17
Sharon Wright	9/17
Mark Cummings	9/18
John Pruitt	9/20
Charles Simpson	9/21
Alvretta Crozier	9/22
Marlene Johnson	9/22
Katelyn Carlson	9/25
Kristen DelCampo	9/25
Matthew Logullo	9/25
Mildred Reinert	9/25
Mary Heckler	9/26
Katelynn Thomas	9/27
Robert Swain	9/28
Christopher Bowen	9/29
Pat Cummings	9/30
Amy Przywara	9/30

**Note: If your name is not listed on our birthday calendar, please call the church office at 654-961. Thank you.**

# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

In September, Ruth Circle will take care of the flowers in the church.

## Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle	Tue., September 3 7:00 p.m. – Church Lounge
Ruth Circle	Wed., September 4 10:00 a.m. – Church Lounge

## Upcoming dates for 2013

Sept. 28	Tea at Simpson UMC 12:00 PM - \$10.00
Oct. 5	Wilmington District UMW Annual Meeting at Mt. Lebanon UMC Breakfast at 8:30 AM
Oct. 12	Blessed Harvest Tea at RPUMC
Oct. 26	Peninsula Delaware Conference Annual Meeting at Neighborhood House Breakfast at 8:30 AM, lunch will be served
Nov. 9 & 10	Founder's Day at Mt. Carmel UMC 8 <sup>th</sup> and Walnut Streets

## DISCIPLE AT ST. JAMES

Mark your calendars! On Friday, September 6, at 10 AM, Disciple classes will begin at St. James. The first endeavor of the year will be a six-week study entitled, "Bad Girls of the Bible." The series includes a workbook which can be purchased from the office for \$9.00. Hope to see old and new friends on September 6!



## MUSIC NOTES

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS – Start planning now for a fall burst of energy in our music programs. With your support and participation, we will truly be making a “joyful noise unto the Lord.”

The rehearsal schedule, starting on Thursday, September 12, will be:

CHANCEL BELLS – 6:15 pm to 7:00 pm  
CHANCEL CHOIR – 7:15 pm to 8:30 pm

Our “Fall 2013” music plans include a revitalization of the Chancel Bells, and plans are under way for a special musical presentation approaching Christmas that will include both of these adult programs as well as our Sunday School students. More on this a bit later!

There are some basic requirements for joining our Chancel Bells or Choir. First, be enthusiastic and committed; second, be age 14 and up (we hope to have opportunities for those younger than 14 through our Sunday School program); third, *LOVE THE LORD AND MUSIC*. That’s it; no special skills are required otherwise and all are welcome.

If you have any questions, you can reach me via email: [music@RPUMChurch.org](mailto:music@RPUMChurch.org) or via telephone in the evenings at 302-427-8465.

I look forward to seeing everyone as we begin the fall season!

Don McFarland  
Director of Music



## MISSION TREE

On Sundays in September, we will be hanging **Apples** on our Mission Tree. Hang an “apple” 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 OUR COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (CAP)

Canned potatoes, black-eyed peas (canned or bagged), canned tuna, baked beans, canned Goya beans, canned green beans, canned peas, canned ravioli, canned soup, pancake mix, syrup (regular and sugar free), bagged Ramen noodles (chicken and beef), spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, cereal, peanut butter, jelly and perishable items – eggs and margarine. **New items: personal care items, such as soap, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.**

**Your donations are very much appreciated!**

**Don’t forget to bring food for CAP the first Sunday of each month.**



## WESLEY TOWER BANKS

July 2013	\$69.86
August 2013	\$62.49

Thanks to everyone for remembering to bring your filled banks to church the first Sunday of each month. Our total to date for 2013 is \$548.03. Remember to pick up an empty bank as you leave the altar area on Communion Sunday. AGAIN, THANKS FOR SAVING YOUR CHANGE.

## KIDS' KORNER



Exciting News from Ms. Marlene!!

Regular Session Sunday School will begin on September 8, 2013.

Class groupings will be:

Pre-school 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.  
Beth Warfel and friends

1-4 Grades 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
Marlene Johnson and friends

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Joe Tucker and Rob Anderson  
and up

The Pre-school class will join Ms. Marlene's class for singing in Room 3. Hopefully, parents will enjoy a social time during the coffee hour while the little ones are enjoying their Pre-school class.

Now, we need children to come and share the fun of learning about God!! Hope to see you on September 8.

Blessings from Ms. Marlene

### CROP WALK SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

The Crop Walk will begin at Peniel UMC. Registration is at 12:30 p.m. and the Walk will begin at 1:00 p.m. More information will be in our weekly Worship Bulletins.

## RICHARDSON PARK COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (CAP) ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 17 7 PM  
Richardson Park UMC

CAP's Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17 at 7 PM. For more information or to explore possible service on CAP's Board, please call CAP at 302-428-1247 or RPUMC's church office at 302-654-0961.



### TOO MANY CALENDARS?????

If you are receiving more 2014 calendars than you can possibly use, please leave your extra ones in the church office or give to Mary Alice Bair for the Prison Ministry. **Spiral calendars are unacceptable for security reasons.** Many thanks.



### FREE LUNCH THURSDAY AT RPUMC

Don't forget our "Free Lunch Thursdays" at RPUMC from 11 AM to 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. This ministry is geared to feed both body and soul by providing nourishing lunches and an opportunity to share the love of Jesus. Please join us as we come together for fellowship and to enjoy a delicious lunch.

If you would like to volunteer to help prepare, serve and clean up, please call the church office.

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**CHECK OUT THE NEW CALENDAR ON OUR  
WEB SITE! Our address is  
[www.rpumchurch.org](http://www.rpumchurch.org).**

## With a grateful heart...

It's hard to believe that almost an entire year has passed since I first came to Richardson Park as your intern back in October of 2012. What an amazing year it has been. You have blessed me in so many ways with your love and support as I have learned and stumbled and grown through the ups and downs of church life.

I can't thank each of you enough for opening your heart to me and for allowing me the honor of being part of your life. Through all of the smiles and joys, and in the trials and tears, you embraced my call and ministry in ways that leave me humbled and awed. I am very grateful and appreciative of all you have done for me.

As I head back to Wesley Theological Seminary for my second year, I ask for your continued prayers and thoughts. I finished up my first year with a 3.8 grade point average, but the real "fun stuff" begins this fall. My classes include a preaching practicum, pastoral care and counseling, Methodist history, and sociology of religion, among others. I will depart for school every Monday morning and return on Wednesday afternoon. Between Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays I will be around the church for about 10 hours a week, and I look forward to these times when I am back here. RPUMC feels very much like home, and as Dorothy said, "there is no place like home."

Please know that I will carry each of you in my heart as I go throughout my days and that my prayers and thoughts will always be with you. I don't know what God has planned for me, but He has already blessed me with the joy of you all and I give Him praise and thanks for this every day. Peace and blessings to you and your family.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

Pastor Wendy

## CERTIFIED LAY MINISTERS CLASS BEGINS THIS FALL!

- Module 1: Sept. 27-28 at Wesley College
- Module 2: Oct. 25-26 at Wesley UM Church  
Dover
- Module 3: Nov. 22-23 at Wesley UM Church
- Module 4: Jan. 24-25, 2014 at Wesley UM  
Church

Please contact Pastor Beverly if you are interested in attending.

### YE OLDE SHOPPE AND MINI YARD SALE Saturday, September 7 9 AM to 2 PM

**Please join us for this special event. Come, browse and shop. There are special treasures for you, your family and your friends. The yard sale will take place in Fellowship Hall, and Ye Olde Shoppe is located across from the garage. There are many new items available. We hope to see you there!**

### SCHOOL UNIFORM DRIVE RICHARDSON PARK ELEMENTARY



If you would like to donate new or gently used clothing for the children of Richardson Park Elementary School, please drop your donations off at the church office or contact Glenda Donnelly, who will be collecting clothing at CAP. The children are in need of:

**Polo Shirts or Button-down Shirts**  
(Light Blue, Navy, or White)

**Pants, Walking Shorts, Skirts, Skorts, or Jumpers** (Navy or Khaki)

**Sweaters/Sweatshirts**  
(Light Blue, Navy, or White)



## ***Laity Enlightenment***

We live in a world of constant coming and going. People leave for moments and forever, and for time periods of every length in between. Children go away to college. Spouses go away on business. Families go away on vacation. Soldiers go off to war. Couples go away on their honeymoon. People who are sick go to treatment centers or the hospital. Politicians go to other countries to influence their leaders. Students go away to other countries to learn from their cultures. And missionaries go to far away places to serve the Lord. For each of us, the list goes on and on for a lifetime. In the end, we all go away from loved ones when our life on this earth is over. And everyone who goes away, expects to arrive someplace else.

The Chinese philosophy of “yin and yang” describes a kind of natural balance made up of opposing forces that must occur in life. Hot and cold, wet and dry, fire and water, light and dark, life and death are all thought to be physical manifestations of these natural dualities. Newton’s Third Law of Physics suggests that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. So in keeping with these concepts, it stands to reason that for every choice we make in life, there is an outcome or consequence that will happen as a result of that choice. It may very well be the outcome we expect and want. But it could be something we never imagined; something completely unexpected. A child goes off to college, not with the expectation of failing, but with the desire to succeed. A person with a serious illness goes to a treatment center, not with the expectation of getting worse but with the hope of recovering. The soldier goes off to war, not with the expectation of dying, but with the honor of fighting for his country and the hope of returning home safely. Unfortunately, failure, disappointment and death are sometimes the outcomes we are faced with. It can happen that the least expected and worst possibility becomes a reality. In times like these we may ask ourselves, what happened to the balance of life? How did things get so bad? And where is God in all this?

I learned in Sunday school as a small child that God is Love and that He is always with us. I accepted this almost as if I had an imaginary friend alongside me as I went through my day. But it was easy along the way to forget that He was there. As I got older, I found that some of the

important decisions in my life often didn’t include my friend, Jesus. Many of the choices I’d made seemed to produce unexpected and disappointing outcomes I would never fully understand. But somehow I always felt God was there when I needed Him most. I believe that God is closer to us in times of trouble than we are willing or able to believe. In the midst of turmoil it is hard to focus on what is most important. As humans, we have a tendency to react out of fear and the need to do something to fix things. It seems that many times I turned to God only when everything I tried myself failed dismally. The fact that God was right there with me while I struggled never occurred to me until I had reached that point where I recognized my own failure or desperation. As I think back on my many shortcomings, I have to thank God for bringing me safe thus far. I feel I have been blessed with more good times than bad times. But don’t you have to experience the “bad” before you really appreciate how “good” it can be?

Christ came to us in the form of the baby Jesus. Born in a manger to humble parents. Jesus walked among us and taught us how to live. Christ left us after suffering and dying on a cross for our sins. Jesus came and went in the blink of an eye. Many years and generations have passed since He walked on this earth. And what have we learned so far? Our journey in this life may not be easy. Do we appreciate the good times and give thanks to God? Our Faith in God will be tested at times. Do we pray to God for strength and keep Him close? Our belief that God is with us and that He wants the best for us will sustain us through the tough times. Do we pray for God’s help to understand life’s challenges and for guidance to keep us on the right path? We should live in the Hope that God will take care of us. But at the same time, we must work to serve Him, follow His laws, and love and care for one another. We are human but God has given us a great capacity for wisdom and compassion. Do we use what God has given us for the good? With all of our comings and goings, we must not forget that God sent his Son to save us. And when we accept Him into our hearts, He travels along with us wherever we may go, forever. Thanks be to God!

Your Lay Leader,

Kathy Rogers

# September 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Worship Committee	<b>2 Labor Day!</b>	<b>3</b> 3 PM Alateen 7 PM Rebeleah Circle 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>4</b> 10 AM Ruth Circle 7:30 PM NA Meeting	<b>5</b> 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 8:15 PM AA Meeting	<b>6</b> 10 AM Disciple – St James 11 AM Free Lunch Peniel	<b>7 FH Reserved</b> 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe and Mini Yard Sale 11 AM Committees on Nominations & Leadership
<b>8</b> 9 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Pre-School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Education Mtg. 12 PM UMW Unit Mtg.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 3 PM Alateen 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>11</b> 7:30 PM NA Meeting	<b>12</b> 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	<b>13</b> 11 AM Free Lunch Peniel	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Pre-School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg. 11:30 AM SPRC Mtg.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 3 PM Alateen 7 PM CAP Annual Board Meeting 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>18</b> 7:30 PM NA Meeting	<b>19</b> 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	<b>20</b> 11 AM Free Lunch Peniel	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Pre-School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Refreshments and Council Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 3 PM Alateen 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>25</b> 7:30 PM NA Meeting	<b>26</b> 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	<b>27</b> 11 AM Free Lunch Peniel	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Pre-School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship	<b>30</b>					

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# *the Messenger*

## **SEPTEMBER 2013**

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### READERS

September 1	Janis Williams
September 8	Betty Swain
September 15	Bob Collins
September 22	Kathy Roger
September 29	Dave Rogers

### ALTAR FLOWERS

September 1	Debbie Freebery
September 8	Sath Amara
September 15	Koinonia Class
At the Cross	Barbara Sayles
September 22	Brenda & Joe Tucker
September 29	Sandy Ide

### FLOWERS

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

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Please submit your articles for the October Messenger to the Church Office by Thursday, September 5. 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.*