

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



Greetings and blessings in February!

February is a short month but it is filled with happenings. This year we will turn our attention to "Love" in the sermon series, called "What's love got to do with it?" Based on Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, we will look at four examples of how love is revealed in the church. In many of your Bibles, 1 Corinthians 13 may have the heading that suggests something to do with "love." I hope you are able to take advantage of this escape from the lectionary and invite a friend as together we look at love.

As your first African American pastor, you will be introduced to the kente colors of Africa. Look for a different stole and a fancy robe in February (see article in this newsletter). Each week we will introduce one African American who has influenced the Methodist Church over the years in our Black History minute in worship. To go along with the love theme of the sermons, we will host a movie night, where we will view "*Fire Proof*," a movie about

love and marriage. In keeping with the theme of Black History month, we will also host a movie night where we will together see "*Amazing Grace*." Both of these movies are suitable for family viewing although they both have adult themes. (See our web calendar for dates and times for these movies.)

My prayer is that the month of February brings peace, joy and love into your life. We sing a carol, "Love Came Down at Christmas" and as people of faith, we are asked by Jesus to love God and to love your neighbor. It may be a short month; however, I believe that we can grow in our faith and our love and respect for one another this month.

In Christ!

Pastor Beverly

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARDS

KIDS' KORNER



Everyone in R.P.U.M.C. Sunday school finds God's love throughout each day. Where do you experience God's love? Come to one of our Sunday school classes - you will find interactive discussions, songs and friendship. There are many classes from which to choose:

Adult Wesley Class: 9 AM in the Lounge
5th grade and up: 9 AM upstairs Landing Room
K - 4th grades: 9 AM lower level - Room 3
Pre-school: 9:30 - 10:15 AM lower level

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings!

*The Education Committee is busily planning for VBS 2014. It is scheduled to start on Sunday, July 13. Please let us know in what area you would like to work.

Blessings from Ms. Marlene

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED For Portrait Sign-ins

We would appreciate help to handle sign-ins for photo sessions for our new church directory. Photos will be taken on Tuesday, February 4 from 2 PM to 8:40 PM; Friday, February 14 from 2 PM to 8:40 PM; and Saturday, February 15 from 10 AM to 4:40 PM. If you could spare a few hours to help with this project, please see Glenn Lewis or Sandy Swain. They will be in the Extension before and after the worship services on January 19, January 26 and February 2.

In-gathering of pledge cards will be the first Sunday in February. Please prayerfully consider your response.



WESLEY TOWER BANKS

December 2013	\$80.92
Our total for 2013 was	\$827.56
January 2014	\$136.00

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.



Thank you for the many cards, phone calls, and prayers on the passing of Sandy's mother, Marie Bennett. We also would like to thank Pastor Beverly and Glenn and the Koinonia for participating in the funeral at St John's in Seaford. The care and compassion of our Richardson Park church family has helped our whole family deal with our loss.

Sandy and Ed Ide

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.

Beverly, Wendy, Don, and Harriet Ann

Commitment Sunday

Luke 6:38

³⁸ Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” NKJV

If you have been in worship for the time of the video announcements, you will recognize this passage. It is a promise and I stand on this promise. I Hope by now that you have prayerfully considered how you will support your church for 2014. Sunday, February 2 will be the day that you will be invited to make your promise of support known to our church leaders. They will modify their budgets based upon your promises. One of the goals this year is to live within our budget but also to trust that God provides. If you have never considered the Biblical tithe, that is giving 10% of what God has blessed you with and living on the 90%, I challenge you to do so this year. But as I suggested before, it is about trust. If you feel that 10% is way too much, then begin by promising to support your church with 2% of what God has provided for you. Next year, add 2% and do so each year until you reach the Biblical tithe.

I am not ignoring those of you who do tithe. Thank you for your trust in God and the leadership of this congregation to use God's gifts wisely. As soon as we all remember that none of what we have belongs to us, we can freely share it so that others will know about the love, forgiveness and mercy of Jesus.

The first month that I came to serve this congregation, I left on vacation and, during my absence, about half of my sterling silver flatware was taken. What a test! I loved that silver. I had cherished it from the time that it was given to me. I didn't earn it; almost all of the pieces were wedding presents. But in a flash, it was gone. Maybe I had to lose it to be reminded that nothing of what we have belongs to us. We are just pass-through accounts so that God's love and blessings can flow to those who need to know of God's love, mercy and forgiveness.

When you pray, fully make your commitment this Sunday as someone who believes in and practices the tithe. I promise that you will always have what you need. If you are afraid that you won't be able to fulfill your promise, trust God and don't hesitate to contact me, if your status changes. The God who always provides will surely keep his promise to you and to the church.

Your Pastor

YE OLDE SHOPPE

Ye Olde Shoppe is open for browsing and shopping every Thursday from 10 AM to 2 PM. On the first Saturday of each month, Ye Olde Shoppe is open, along with a mini-yard sale! So stop by the first Saturday of each month from 10 AM to 2 PM 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.

"The Trustees' Times"



Rob Anderson, *Chair*

The new Board of Trustees held our first meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2014 and it was a very good one. We believe we have a good group on board and look forward to this coming year. We are in the process of discerning where we are in regards to the immediate and long-term needs. We are compiling a list of items that we are aware of that need to be addressed. We are also asking everyone for their input as far as any items they feel need to be addressed or improved upon.

We also hope you will be somewhat patient because we do have a limited amount of time and resources with which to work. In the very near future, we will either notify you or post a list of the trustees in a prominent place so that you will know who and how to contact us. If you feel there is an issue that needs to be addressed, or you want to make a suggestion, or you want to pitch in and help on a particular project, please let us know.

One of the first items we need to address with the church community is access to our building. Over the years, several keys have been issued to various members for reasons of service in some fashion to the church. If you are no longer on a committee or don't require the same access you once did, we would appreciate it if you would return your keys to the church office. Right now we have several trustees who cannot open or lock up the building because we don't have keys to give them. We also want to ensure that the building is safe and secure. If you have lost a key, we would like to know that also.

In the upcoming months, there also may be some special projects that include areas of the church that need sprucing up. We are going to be expecting and looking forward to your participation. We will try to give you plenty of notice, but we cannot be expected to do these tasks on our own. If you have the time or energy and want to spearhead or champion a particular task, we are also here to help you. Let us know what you are thinking and what resources are needed and we can get it accomplished together.

Once again, thanks from all of the trustees for your confidence. We look forward to working with you.



Laity Enlightenment

Kathy Rogers

On January 20th we celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Schools and government offices were closed. Many organizations and community groups held special services or events to remember Dr. King's dream of equality and justice for all. February is Black History Month. There are many African Americans who will be honored and remembered in schools, on television and at planned gatherings throughout the country. Among those who may be recognized for their achievements and contributions are Linda Brown, W.E.B. Du Bois, Moses Hogan, Rosa Parks and Thurgood Marshall, to name just a few. There are so many who have been a part of this nation's journey that they can't all be listed here.

A very serious question haunts me about these celebrations and remembrances, however. And it has nothing to do with race, ethnicity or religious beliefs. Do we have to wait until someone dies to recognize the good they are doing or what they could have done, if they had lived longer? I feel like the answer must be no but it sure seems like the answer is yes, for all intent and purpose. I submit that for all those who had gained much support for their humanitarian efforts while they were alive, they most often received even greater recognition after their deaths. What's wrong with this picture? Are we just slow to recognize the importance of things until long after they happen? Maybe, it is fear that causes this a lack of acknowledgement and appreciation.

In the case of Martin Luther King, he was killed because of his life and dreams. But this didn't stop things from changing. In fact, some believe that his death actually catapulted his vision into action. Dramatic changes occurred in the pursuit of equality and justice for all in the years after his death and continue today. So killing the man didn't kill the vision or the spirit that led to a much needed remodeling of the way we administer justice and how we treat and care for people in today's world.

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, had to die. His death was a sad but necessary element of our salvation story. He died to take away our sins and give us a clean slate from which to begin to rewrite the story of our **lives** using his as our example. Those who were threatened by Jesus' teachings and the accounts of healing and miracles he performed, were also afraid of what might happen next. They killed the man but God's vision lives on through those believe in him. The people in the world must replace the killing of men and dreams, with the caring of people through acts of love and kindness.

Each one of us can do our part by faithfully following the example of Christ; caring for the last, the least and the lost. Volunteering our time, talents and support to serve with a humble heart, in ways that reflect God's love and kindness to all we encounter. God will take account of how we take action to expand his kingdom here on earth by teaching others about Jesus and sharing the good news of salvation to all people.

Our names may not be written in the history books like Dr. Martin Luther King, but if we give our lives to Christ and do what Jesus taught us, when we meet our maker, we will find our names written in the "Book of Life"!

Halleluiah and Amen

Kathy Rogers

MUSIC NOTES

Don McFarland, Director



SPRING DATES FOR SPECIALS

The music program at Richardson Park is taking on new challenges this spring. On Sunday, March 23, at 4:00 PM, the Chancel Choir of Richardson Park will join the Choir of Aldersgate UMC in a concert of music with orchestra, organ, the Aldersgate Brass, tympani, and soloists. Part of the concert will include a performance of "A Requiem – For Those We Love But See No Longer" composed by Don McFarland in 2007. This will be the second performance of this choral work scored for strings, harp, organ, soloists and SATB choir. There will be anthems appropriate to the approaching Easter season in addition to this work.

Then, on Maundy Thursday, following a very special Seder Meal, the Chancel Choir will perform "Lift High the Cross" a musical journey for Holy Week composed by Lloyd Larson. This spiritually moving music includes familiar hymns and songs that will help us all "lift high the Cross" on Easter Sunday. Mark your calendars now for Thursday, April 17, beginning at 6:00 PM for a special meal in Fellowship Hall followed by the Easter Cantata.

Our Chancel Bells will also be performing special music throughout the remainder of Epiphany and into Lent and Easter. Their ensemble is a joy to have in worship and they look forward to presenting special music on a regular basis.

Cabaret anyone? Rumor has it that there may be an evening of fun musical entertainment coming later in the year; perhaps a spaghetti supper with music and entertainment for all ages. Watch for more information in next month's newsletter.

Anyone, ages 14 and up, is always welcome to join our music program at Richardson Park. If you love to sing and are willing to commit to regular rehearsal attendance, please know you are warmly welcome to try us out. Thursdays at 7:15 PM – we'd love to have you with us!

- **During the Month of February, Black History Month, I will be wearing a Kente stole and a special robe.**

The "kente cloth" is of the [Ashanti](#) people. It is a royal and sacred cloth worn only in times of extreme importance. Kente was the cloth of kings. Over time, the use of Kente became more widespread, however its importance has remained and it is held in high esteem in the Akan family and the entire country of Ghana.

In Ghana, kente is made by the Ashanti people and is the best known of all African textiles. Kente comes from the word kenten, which means "basket." The Asante peoples also refer to kente as nwentoma or "woven cloth."

The icon of African cultural heritage around the world, Asante kente is identified by its dazzling, multicolored patterns of bright colors, geometric shapes and bold designs. Kente characterized by weft designs woven into every available block of plain weave is called adweneasa. The Asante peoples of Ghana choose kente cloths as much for their names as their colors and patterns. Although the cloths are identified primarily by the patterns found in the lengthwise (warp) threads, there is often little correlation between appearance and name. Names are derived from several sources, including proverbs, historical events, important chiefs, queen mothers, and plants.



NURSERY AND SAFE SANCTUARIES INFORMATION

BY BETH WARFEL

Nursery Report

The nursery has become a busy place most Sunday mornings. Please remember that you **MUST** walk your child down to the nursery on Sunday mornings and sign them in, even if they do not go down to the nursery until after children's time during morning worship, and then you **MUST** walk back down to the nursery and sign your child out before we will release them from the nursery. We will not release children to older brothers and sisters if we know there is a parent in the sanctuary, as the children must be signed in and out by a responsible adult. Please help us with this important safety measure.

We have tried to organize a weekly schedule of people serving in the nursery, but there are **NOT** many of us who are serving in this role on Sunday mornings. Would you be willing to serve one Sunday out of the month working in the nursery? You can still see/hear the worship service as we have closed circuit television from the Sanctuary. If you are interested, please contact Beth Warfel for more information. Your service would be greatly appreciated!

Safe Sanctuaries Report

Why Safe Sanctuaries? Because the United Methodist Church has made a commitment to making our church buildings, sanctuaries, and outside activities safe for all children/youth/adults who need special care. We need to ensure that there are guidelines for protecting our children/youth/dependent adults, and reporting issues if any should ever occur. We are called by God to "Love Others" and our children/youth/dependent

adults certainly deserve that attitude of love and care at all times. There are guidelines and requirements set by the conference for ALL churches in the conference and we must either be in compliance with or have a timeline to be in compliance with those requirements at the time of Annual Conference.

We worked feverishly to get our report ready for our annual Charge Conference in December. Pastor Beverly and I met, discussed what paperwork we did and did not have, and made a plan for where to go from here. Currently we are in the process of updating all of the applications, which all potential youth/children workers will need to fill out, with new language required by the conference. Then we will distribute the new forms to all those who are currently serving in roles involved with children/youth/dependent adults and run a new round of background checks. Once this has happened then we will begin to store all of the information in a very safe, lockable area where few people will have access. As new people become involved in programs with children/youth/dependent adults we will complete paperwork and run reports on an individual basis. Every four years we will renew all paperwork for anyone working with children/youth/dependent adults and purge files, moving things from paper and electronic storage to electronic storage only, and safely destroying the old paper documentation. Beginning sometime in January we will offer Safe Sanctuaries training to all those involved with children/youth/dependent adults, including the required first aid and AED trainings. We hope to be in full compliance with all policies required by the conference by the end of March.

Have questions? Feel free to ask me anytime!

Peace to all,

Beth Warfel, Chairperson, SAFE Team

February 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Pre-School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 12 PM Fellowship Hall Reserved	3 6:30 PM VBS Planning Meeting 7:00 PM Worship Mtg.	4 11 AM Soup Day 12 PM Lounge and Extension Reserved 2 PM Portrait Sessions 7 PM Rebekah Circle 8 PM AA Meeting	5 10 AM Ruth Circle 7:30 PM NA Meeting	6 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:15 AM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	7 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel UMC	1 Fellowship Hall Reserved 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe and Mini Yard Sale
9 9 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Pre-School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Education Mtg.	10	11 11 AM Soup Day 8 PM AA Meeting	12 5 PM Extension Reserved 6:30 PM NA Policy Group 7 PM Movie "Fire Proof" 7:30 PM NA Meeting	13 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	14 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel UMC 12 PM Lounge and Extension Reserved 2 PM Portrait Sessions	15 8 AM Lounge and Extension Reserved 10 AM Portrait Sessions
16 9 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Pre-School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM SPRC Mtg. 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg.	17	18 11 AM Soup Day 7 PM CAP Board Mtg. 8 PM AA Meeting	19 5 PM Extension Reserved 7 PM Movie "Amazing Grace" 7:30 PM NA Meeting	20 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	21 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel UMC 5:30 PM Koinonia Covered Dish	22
23 9 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Pre-School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Council Mtg.	24	25 11 AM Soup Day 8 PM AA Meeting	26 7:30 PM NA Meeting	27 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	28 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel UMC	

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” FEBRUARY 2014

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
Beverly Lewis, Pastor



LAY READERS

February 2
February 9
February 16
February 23

Ruth Phillips
Joan Stadelman
Tod Mitten
Roger Longest

ALTAR FLOWERS

February 2
February 9
At the Cross
February 16
February 23
At the Cross

Charlene & Bruce Workman
Chancel Bells & Choir
Melissa Hughes
Bob Evely
Doris Munger
Bettie Smith

ALTAR FLOWERS

For the month of February, Rebekah Circle is responsible for the flowers.

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

Please submit your articles for the
March Messenger to the church office by
Wednesday, February 12. 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.*