

Richardson Park United Methodist Church  
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## MEET OUR NEW INTERIM PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. Bruce Cooke will be serving as the Interim Pastor of Richardson Park UMC from January 1 through June 30, 2015; and he writes:

It is a joy to be among you for these six months. As a fifth generation Methodist pastor (the last four of which have served in this conference), I have long been familiar with RPUMC and you have a very good reputation. My father, the Rev. Dr. R. Jervis Cooke, was the Wilmington District Supt. when I was in Jr. and Sr. High, so I graduated from Brandywine H.S. ('65) before going on to Duke University ('69) and Wesley Theological Seminary (M.Div. '72; D.Min. '76).

My wife, Gail, and I met in the summer of 1968 while working for the Methodist Action Program at Silverbrook UMC, and we were married in August of 1969 at her home church, the United Methodist Church of the Atonement in Claymont. She is a graduate of Wesley College ('67) and Pfeiffer College ('69) and studied Christian Education at Wesley Seminary.

We have served churches in St. Georges ('73-'76); Snow Hill, MD ('76-'82); Georgetown ('82-'88); Pike Creek ('88-'93); Easton, MD ('93-'99); Seaford ('99-2003), and Selbyville ('03-'10). I retired after 40 years of service and we moved to Claymont and live in the house where Gail grew up. We are trying to sell that house and move closer to our two daughters who live in Easton and Cambridge, MD, so the RPUMC parsonage may need to be used as our "transitional housing" if we sell our house before the end of June.

I am looking forward to getting to know you better, and I want you to feel free to contact me with any pastoral needs or concerns. My personal cell phone number and e-mail are listed in the weekly bulletin and in this newsletter. I plan to be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. Please do not hesitate to call on me at any time. I hope you will want to invite your friends and neighbors to worship with us and to join with me in pursuit of my personal mission statement: "To share the love of Jesus."

Grace and Peace,

Bruce Cooke  
Your Pastor



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE  
FEBRUARY 18 7 PM RPUMC**

**PASTOR'S LENTEN STUDY GROUP  
Tuesdays 10 AM and 6:30 PM  
February 24 – March 31  
Church Lounge**

The pastor will be leading a Lenten study entitled, "The Teachings of Jesus That Are Changing the World" for six weeks beginning on February 24. You are invited to attend whichever session works with your schedule. The focus of this study is on the unique teachings of Jesus and how they are different from the teachings of other great religions. We will address the question: "What's so special about Christianity?"

Edward Podgorski	2/4
Beverly Cuomo	2/5
Terry Bourdon	2/7
Bill Green	2/7
Carol Cathell	2/10
Mary Sutor	2/11
Brian Crozier	2/12
Terri Antonine	2/13
Cassandra King	2/13
Byrom Price	2/13
Mike Williams	2/13
Ellen Willard	2/14
Robert Davis	2/16
Karen Gibbons	2/17
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
Charles Luppy	2/26
Jacob Williams	2/27

**COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES**

**Wednesdays at Noon  
February 25 – April 1  
St. Mark's UMC  
1700 Limestone Road**

A light lunch will be served after each service.

(The Maryland Avenue Ministers' Association will provide a Lenten Devotional Guide but is not having mid-week services this year.)



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**

**BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 8.**

**TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR.**

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



**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.

# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



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

## Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle	Tues., Feb. 3 Extension	7:00 p.m.
Ruth Circle	Will begin meeting again in March – More information to follow.	

## Circle Leaders

Rebekah Circle	Linda Keffer
Ruth Circle	Betty Swain

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



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Meals on Wheels

Volunteers are needed to deliver Meals on Wheels on Monday, Wednesday and Friday once a month. If you are interested in helping with this worthy cause, please contact Bob Evelyn at 528-0509.

# CHILDREN'S CHURCH



The children in Room 3 are "following Jesus." Our attendance bulletin is covered with our footprints as we learn about Jesus. The three Wisemen and their caravan followed the star (held by Ms. Beth) as we searched for the manger - yes, we found baby Jesus! We also learned about baptism. Water helps us when we are thirsty and cleanses us. The Bible Detectives ate locusts (chocolate-covered raisins) and sampled honey as John the Baptist would have enjoyed in Jesus' time (no MacDonald's or Pizza Hut). Now, more adventures await our wonderful Bible Detectives. If you are in Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade, join us after Time with Children. Following Safe Sanctuary guidelines, the children must be signed out. Thank you for taking time to keep our children safe.

Blessings from Ms. Marlene



## WESLEY TOWER BANKS

December 2014	\$77.63
Our total for 2014 was	\$1154.89
January 2015	\$66.05

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.



I would like to thank the "Christmas Carolers," the friends who stopped by, the friends who called, and those who sent cards. It all boosted my spirits more than you will ever know!

Thank you all again,  
Carol Cathell and family

Many thanks to our church family for the generous Christmas gifts. It is a blessing to work with all of you. Your thoughtfulness and support are very much appreciated. May God bless you in the new year.

*Don and Harriet Ann*

## *YE OLDE SHOPPE*

*Ye Olde Shoppe will be open for browsing and shopping every Thursday from 10 AM to 2 PM beginning Thursday, February 5. 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.*

## RICHARDSON PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOTHING PROGRAM

Thanks to all who have donated to the Richardson Park School Clothing Program. Many coats, hats, gloves, scarves and boots, as well as slacks, shirts, blouses, underwear and socks have kept the children at Richardson Park Elementary School and their siblings warm and comfortably dressed this fall and winter. The need at the school is ongoing and, thanks to the generosity of the United Methodist Women at RPUMC, we are continuing to help meet the needs at the school.

Following are items still needed at the school as well as sizes that are appropriate for the ages of the children:

Coats - Small (6-8), Medium (10-12), Large (12-14)

Slacks - 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and Husky sizes - navy blue or khaki

Shirts - Small, Medium, Large - navy, light blue, white, red (no logos)

Sweatshirts - Small, Medium, Large - navy, light blue, white, red (no logos)

Underwear and socks (both girls and boys)

Please keep the children in your thoughts and prayers. If you would like to donate items, please drop them off in the church office with a note designating them to the school

As always, thank you for your support and caring for the children in our community.

## From the Trustee's

It is hard to believe how quickly 2014 came and went, but here we are ready for more exciting adventures and improvements in 2015.

We had our first meeting of the year and welcomed our new class which includes Howard Eney and Sue Cummings. We spent time reviewing the project list that we had developed last year along with a few new items. As we did last year, the trustees agreed to break up the areas of responsibilities for the church into categories and each member will be your main contact for the various highlighted areas. See list on next page. If you come across an item that you think needs attention and falls under the guidelines of a trustee, please contact the trustee directly and inform him of your concern. By splitting up these assignments, our hope is that no one person is overburdened and that we can give the area of concern the attention it deserves. This contact list will also be posted on the bulletin board in the main hall across from the office.

We also are looking for some individuals who are willing and able to help maintain the sidewalks around the perimeter of the church and parsonage during ice and snow conditions. We are in need of people that we can contact, especially during the work week. If you can pitch in, please send me your phone number and/or e-mail address and I will contact you with additional information.

In the upcoming months, we will be targeting several projects. Just because you are not a member of the trustees or the BMG group does not mean we don't need your help and support. Again, if you think you would like to work with us on some of these projects, please send me your contact information. It doesn't necessarily mean that you have to do the physical work. There are times when it is

helpful to have someone make phone calls or simply help us coordinate access to the building. The more you can get involved the better.

Rob Anderson



## MEMORIAL TREE UPDATE – 2/1/2015

Thanks to all who have requested that loved ones who have passed be remembered on our Memorial Tree. We now have names of 30 members or non-members on the tree; it is very moving to see all our loved ones remembered in such a loving and caring way. The Memorial Committee is delighted that the Tree is being used by the congregation and hope you will all take a moment to stop by and see the names that have been added.

Guidelines for ordering a leaf (or leaves) and ordering forms are located on the table beside the Memorial Tree.

Memorial Committee

## HEALTH TIP FOR THE NEW YEAR

Become a volunteer in the New Year – it could be good for your health. According to a review of more than 30 studies, there is a strong connection between volunteering and good health. Volunteers enjoy longer lives, higher functional ability, lower rates of depression and decreased incidence of heart disease. It benefits both physical and mental well-being and can even give you a “helper’s high.” Help yourself to better health by helping others.

**Trustee 2015 Contact List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	
Rob Anderson	Elec./Fire/Security	
Sue Cummings	Grounds-Exterior	
Howard Eney	Parsonage	
Jim Durkee	Wood Work/Carpentry	
Ed Ide	BMG	Organ-A/V
Jim King	Roofing	Windows
Rich Locke	Cleaning	
Tod Mitten	Elevator Defibrillators	Organ-A/V
Dave Rogers	Heating/AC	

**GUIDELINES FOR ORDERING LEAF (LEAVES) FOR MEMORIAL TREE**

When ordering a leaf (or leaves) for the Memorial Tree, the cost of the leaf (or leaves) is determined as follows:

**COST**

- If the deceased individual(s) being recognized on the Memorial Tree was a member of RPUMC, the cost is \$50.00 + \$4.50 for engraving.
- If the deceased individual(s) being recognized on the Memorial Tree was not a member of RPUMC, the cost is \$100.00 + \$4.50 for engraving.

**All checks should be made payable to RPUMC – Memorial Tree.**

**Any questions, please contact Glenda Donnelly at 998-5047.**

**FORM**

**ONE LETTER OR SPACE per dash up to a total of 20 letters and spaces per line.**

**A total of two lines, 20 letters and spaces each, are available for your inscription.**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

— — — — — (1st line)




— — — — — (2<sup>nd</sup> line)

**Please return all completed forms and checks to the Church Office.**

**Thank you  
Memorial Committee**



# February 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Worship	<b>2</b> 6 PM Finance Meeting.	<b>3 Sanctuary and Extension Reserved</b> 7 PM Rebekah Circle 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>4</b> 6 PM NA Unity & Activities Group 7 PM SPRC Meeting 7:30 PM NA Meeting	<b>5</b> 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:15 AM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	<b>6</b> 10 AM Disciple - St. James 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel UMC	<b>7</b> 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe
<b>8</b> 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Worship 11:45 AM Education Mtg.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>11</b> 6:30 PM NA Policy Group 7:30 PM NA Meeting	<b>12</b> 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 8:15 PM AA Meeting	<b>13</b> 10 AM Disciple - St. James 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel UMC	<b>14</b>  <b>Happy Valentine's Day</b>
<b>15</b> 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Worship 11:45 AM SPRC Mtg. 11:45 AM Trustees Mtg.	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b> 7 PM CAP Board Mtg. 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>18</b>  6:30 pm NA Phone Line Group 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 PM NA Meeting	<b>19</b> 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	<b>20</b> 10 AM Disciple - St. James 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel UMC 5:30 PM Koinonia Game Night	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Worship 11:45 AM Council Mtg.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Bible Study 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>25</b> 12 PM Lenten Service - St. Mark's UMC 7:30 PM NA Meeting	<b>26</b> 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	<b>27</b> 10 AM Disciple - St. James 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel UMC	<b>28 Fellowship Hall and Kitchen Reserved</b>



RICHARDSON PARK  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
11 NORTH MARYLAND AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, DE 19804-1305

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Wilmington, DE  
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# “THE MESSENGER” FEBRUARY 2015

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Bruce Cooke, Pastor Cell Phone: 410-924-4454 E-Mail: [becdgc@gmail.com](mailto:becdgc@gmail.com)



## LAY READERS

February 1	Melissa Hughes
February 8	Roger Longest
February 15	Dave Rogers
February 22	Howard Eney

## ALTAR FLOWERS

February 1	Charlene & Bruce Workman
February 8	Chancel Bells & Choir
At the Cross	Melissa Hughes
February 15	Bob Evely
February 22	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.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please submit your articles for the  
March Messenger to the church office by  
Wednesday, February 11. 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.*