

Messenger

DECEMBER 2016 JANUARY 2017

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



As we transition from Advent into the New Year, I am reminded of a tradition my family embraced every New Year's Eve. I'm referring to what is known as "Watch Night" service.

The first Watch Night service in our United Methodist denomination was held in 1770 at the St. Georges Methodist Church in Philadelphia. At this service John Wesley invited participants to review the year, confess to sins and pray for the year ahead.

The tradition of celebrating the New Year in worship developed into a different theme for African Americans in 1862. New Year's Eve was also known as Freedom's Eve. This was the night many slaves huddled in drafty, dimly lit churches for prayer meetings, awaiting the official news of Lincoln signing the emancipation proclamation. That day came on January 1, 1863. Many traditions have been added since those early days but the focus is still the same: prayer.

As we come to the final day of 2016 and are on the verge of a new year, I believe closing out the old year and moving into the new with prayer is vital. We can give much thanks to God for the year that was and pray with expectation as we look with joy to the year that will be.

During the month of November, I have been blessed by following the 40-day prayer challenge in the book, "Draw the Circle" by Mark Batterson. One of my favorite quotes in the book is, "Quit talking to God about your

problem and start talking to your problem about God."

Back in October, I had the pleasure of taking Clergy Leadership training with other pastors in our Peninsula-Delaware Conference. Each day, one of the pastors led a short devotion. One shared a prayer written by a church member and I asked if I could use it. It inspired me and I hope it inspires you for the rest of this year and in the coming year.

"Gracious God, as I start this new day help me bring your presence with me, to speak your peace, your grace, your humility. I acknowledge your power over all that will be spoken, thought, decided and done today. Lord, help me use your gifts responsibly. Give me a fresh supply of strength to do your will. When I am confused, guide me. When I am weary, energize me. Help me with today's ideas and tasks so that even my smallest accomplishment may be in your honor. I thank you for everything you've done, everything you're doing, and everything you're going to do. I pray with much love and thanksgiving in the name of Jesus. Amen."

"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands—O prosper the work of our hands." Psalm 90: 17

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pastor Carolyn

RICHARDSON PARK U.M.C.
CELEBRATES ADVENT and
CHRISTMAS!



Sunday, December 11

11:30 AM

**“Baby Shower for Jesus”
Advent Covered Dish
Everyone is invited.**

Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve

6:30 PM

Family Friendly Service

10:30 PM

Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25

10:30 AM

**Christmas Service
“Lessons and Carols”**

Everyone is welcome!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Tammy Brindle	12/1
William Edwards	12/2
Patrick Elliott	12/2
Devon Manley	12/2
Bruce Workman	12/2
Bryan Cummings	12/3
Marjorie Newton	12/5
Dorothy Scarborough	12/5
Don McFarland	12/7
Josiah Straughn	12/7
William Boyce	12/9
Zachary Casalvera	12/9
Andy Hughes	12/9
Billee Boyd	12/10
Emma Warfel	12/10
Carolyn Stafford	12/11
Dana Bourdon	12/12
Mary Lou Boyce	12/12
Rose Davis	12/12
Steven Ott, Sr.	12/12
Justin Farren	12/14
Melanie Mitten	12/14
Megan Edwards	12/15
George Smallwood	12/15
David Brown	12/16
William Klingler, Jr.	12/18
Dorothy Goss	12/19
Shirly Ritter	12/19
Emma Mae Manley	12/20
Gladys Swain	12/21
Michael Toy	12/22
Cheryl Lynn Krebs	12/25
Barbara Przywara	12/26
Betty Swain	12/26
Bill Aurelio	12/27
Neal Davis	12/27
Jason Bourdon	12/29
Amanda Graham	12/31



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Michael Coverdale	1/2
David Swain	1/2
Donna Thomas	1/2
Karen Collins	1/3
Cole Bauer	1/4
Paigely Boyd	1/4
Sarah James	1/4
Gabriel Klingler	1/4
Harold Spedden	1/4
Ken Horne	1/5
Wendy Walls	1/5
Donny Pasmore	1/6
Lee Powell	1/8
Alexis Anderson	1/10
Cindi Beane	1/11
Riley Parent	1/11
Joseph Watkins	1/12
Dillon Keffer	1/14
Julie Oakley	1/15
Hunter Saunders	1/15
Kiersten Hughart	1/16
Gail Cooke	1/17
Ginger Pettyjohn	1/17
Emmanuel Lee	1/18
Kenneth Saunders	1/18
Dave Goss	1/19
Jerry Paoli	1/19
Ruth Phillips	1/19
Tony Donnelly	1/20
Kristi Doughty	1/23
Virginia Pridgen	1/30
Riley Ann Sullivan	1/30
Jen Fitzgerald	1/31

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 December, Rebekah Circle will take care of the flowers in the church and in January, Ruth Circle will take care of the flowers. Both Circles will help with the poinsettias.

Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle	No meeting in December Tue., January 3 7:00 p.m. – Extension
Ruth Circle	No meeting in December Wed., January 11 12:00 p.m. - Extension

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 Annual Cookie Walk 9 AM – 10:30 AM Extension

This year, the proceeds from this event will go toward scholarships for two of our graduating seniors headed for college. We would appreciate your donations of cookies. Please label them because of allergies. Come take a “walk” down cookie lane and select from a variety of cookies! The price for all of this fun is \$5.00 for a half-pound. So...come and buy some of our delicious cookies!

Advent Covered-Dish Christmas Luncheon and “Baby Shower for Jesus” Sunday, December 11 11:30 AM

During the United Methodist Women’s Covered-Dish Christmas Luncheon, we will hold a “Baby Shower for Jesus.” We hope you will be able to attend the luncheon and, if possible, bring one or more of the following items:

- New baby clothing (sizes 0-12 months)
- Canned formula – **needed most**
- Disposable diapers – **needed most**
- Baby blankets
- Small items such as bottles, pins, etc.

All of these items will be donated to “Door of Hope Ministry” which works with new and expectant mothers.

Rebekah and Ruth Circles held a wonderful combined meeting on November 1. The Pen-Del Conference’s only deaconess, Pat Marks, was the speaker. Another exciting adventure is in the planning stages for a daytime spring get together. Watch for more details!

Blessings for a joyous holiday!



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS THIS ADVENT SEASON

The beautiful decorations which will adorn our church during Advent are graciously provided by the following members of RPUMC:

Advent Wreath	Phyllis Bowman
Altar Trees	Clyde & Carolyn Nafzinger
Altar Wreath	Pat Cummings
Altar Wreath	Ruth Gibney
Balcony Wreath	Raphael and Paulette Lazzaro
Door Wreath	Dave & Kathy Rogers
Door Wreath	Dorothy Scarborough
Door Wreath	Joan Stadelman
Door Wreath	Marvin & Betty Swain
Nativity Scenes	Koinonia Class

CHILDREN'S CHURCH



Greetings from all of us in Children's Church! During November, we talked about the word "Blessings." We discovered God has shared many with us. In fact, the children listed more than 20 - yes, we are blessed! Ms. Beth has been very busy teaching us (as only she can) songs and special readings for the "Advent Family Gathering" on December 11. I know you will definitely enjoy this wonderful presentation! The children were given "Thanksgiving Family Packs." This was a great opportunity to work together over the Thanksgiving holiday. They also will receive a "family activity pack" for Christmas vacation. Please take the time to enjoy this time together. Again, thank you for so readily supporting our safe sanctuary policy. May you have a blessed Advent Season!



YE OLDE SHOPPE

*Every Thursday through December 15
9 AM - 1 PM and
Saturday, December 3, Christmas Shoppe
and Mini-Yard Sale
9 AM - 1 PM*

*Ye Olde Shoppe will be closed the month
of January and will reopen
Thursday, February 3, 2017*



WESLEY TOWER BANKS

November 2016 \$84.09

Thanks to everyone for remembering to bring your filled banks to church the first Sunday of each month. Our total to date for 2016 is \$781.55. Remember to pick up an empty bank as you leave the altar area on Communion Sunday. **AGAIN, THANKS FOR SAVING YOUR CHANGE.**

A Year in Review by Our Lay Leader and Mission Chair, Kathy Rogers

God is Great! God is Good! And we are richly blessed at Richardson Park United Methodist Church. Pastor Carolyn Williams has been a welcomed addition to our church family providing us with spiritual support, guidance and scripture-based messages. It seems to have been a year of growth and discovery in some ways.

The Trustees have had a very busy and successful year accomplishing much needed maintenance and repairs to the property, parsonage and church building. They orchestrated asbestos abatement throughout the church, attic & boiler room cleanout, boiler replacement, roof window & exterior building repairs, painting & window replacement at the parsonage and much more.

The Missions Team began monthly visits to Sojourner's Place to help manage their clothing closet. The administration and residents are all very appreciative of our efforts. Some missions team members have been contributing their time regularly since April and others in the church have joined in occasionally. All who have served have been blessed to be a part of this volunteer program. The team also sponsored a Flood Relief event where (50) cleaning kits were put together after worship one Sunday. The church provided the funding and about 25 caring individuals collected the needed supplies and gathered to create the kits, adding a measure of love and compassion to each bucket. These buckets would be sent to flood stricken areas of the country. Adults and children enjoyed sharing their time and energy to benefit those in need.

The REM (Rejuvenate, Enrich and Make it happen) Team began a series of small group activities on Wednesday evenings and the response has been great. Once each month the groups gather at church for cooking class, book club or Bible study. REM also held the 2nd Annual Trunk & Treat event on the Saturday before Halloween. Many families enjoyed this event and it was great fun to see the people of the community coming out to join us!

The Boy Scouts have been a welcome addition to our church family. They have

helped with the cleanout projects, sponsored some fundraising activities at the church and joined us in worship occasionally.

We have all been praying for God to send the right person to lead our youth ministry program. We've had the pleasure of seeing an increase in the number of Pre-K to grade 3 age group children coming to church each Sunday. These children, the Boy Scouts and others need a spirit-filled youth leader to help nurture and guide them in establishing their faith. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee has had and interviewed only one applicant to date. We continue to be patient and be in prayer, asking the Lord to supply the perfect candidate for this important ministry.

On Pentecost Sunday, I led a worship service that allowed the people of the church an opportunity to share their vision for Richardson Park church by writing their thoughts on cloud-shaped paper and hanging them on the walls of the sanctuary. As expected, there were many comments about the need to develop the youth program as well as a need to grow the church membership. Pastor Carolyn put together an initial rack up of all the vision statements written on the clouds that Sunday and categorized them by common themes. In early 2017, the pastor is planning to work with the church leadership to develop a new Vision for Richardson Park. A sub-team will also work on a 5-year plan for our church based on the information gathered from the people of the church during this visioning exercise.

I personally learned a lot this year and especially from the Lay Servant course I participated in which focused on visitation and care for the elderly, hospitalized, terminally ill and bereaved. I discovered that I still have much to learn and also that one way to do just that is by serving God and our brothers and sisters in Christ in whatever way I can. Our God is faithful and good. We must also have faith and do our best to follow the example of Christ. I look forward to 2017 with great hope for the future of Richardson Park United Methodist Church!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Music Notes from Don McFarland

First – a huge “THANK YOU” to our Chancel Choir and Friends for their wonderful presentation of “Sweet Land of Liberty” on November 6. It was truly a blessing for all who joined us for the concert.

Coming up in December – we will have a presentation by our Sunday School of “The Unfriendly Beasts” at our Advent Family Luncheon and “Baby Shower for Jesus” on December 11. Look in this newsletter elsewhere for more information on that gathering but plan to stay for the covered dish and some great entertainment.

Christmas Eve we will have two worship opportunities with an early Family Service – designed to be “kid friendly” and a late Traditional Service with music beginning at 10:30 PM. For Sunday, December 25, we will have Christmas Lessons & Carols at 10:30 AM. On January 1, 2017, we will celebrate the New Year with Holy Communion at the regular worship hour.

In January, mark your calendars right now for Sunday, January 29 at 6:00 PM for “The Phantom of the Opera” starring Lon Chaney and musical accompaniment by Paul Fleckenstein (Organist/Music Director at Westminster Presbyterian Church). Perhaps one of the most famous movies of the silent film era, I can tell you from first-hand experience that Paul’s improvisations and musical rendering of this film are absolutely thrilling and will be an opportunity for you to enjoy our organ in a new and exciting way. The movie will be followed by Pizza and Salad Fellowship at \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family (kids eat all they want!). More details on that a bit later. Again, JANUARY 29, 2017 at 6:00 PM.

Also, we will have a special concert in February featuring the Dupont Diversity Chorus and the Richardson Park Chancel Choir and that date will be announced soon.

Thank you everyone and please support our musical outreach by telling friends and family about these special events. They are a great reason to come to church and enjoy the gifts that our Richardson Park UMC has to offer all.

Don

SCOUT PANCAKE BREAKFAST SECOND ANNUAL FUND RAISER

Sunday, December 4 9 AM – 12 PM
Adults - \$8; Children - \$5;
Family of four - \$20

Come out and support Cub Pack 339 and Boy Scout Troop 339 and enjoy a fabulous pancake breakfast. Included with each meal purchased are pancakes, sausage, juice, milk and coffee.

Richardson Park Elementary School Clothing Program

The children of Richardson Park Elementary School are in need of the following clothing items:

- Girls tights – small, medium, large
Colors – white, navy, black
- Girls underwear – small, medium, large
- Boys underwear – small, medium, large and x-large
- Socks – all sizes – navy, black or white

If you have any questions, please contact Glenda Donnelly or Marlene Johnson.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Book Club had an interesting and enjoyable November meeting. We will not meet in December. Our book for the January Meeting on Wednesday, January 11 is, “Amazing Grace” by Steve Turner. At our meeting on Wednesday, February 8 the book is, “The Second Son” by Charles Sailor. We hope to see you at one of these meetings.

Paul Weaver

Security Tip December/January

What is ransomware?

It is malicious software which will block access to computer files through encryption. The malware will then ask for the owner to pay a ransom to obtain a key to recover the data. The key is a one-time cypher and cannot be replicated without paying the ransom. It is reported this is one of the most common malware attacks on the internet today.

How does your computer get infected with ransomware?

- Ransomware is downloaded to a computer by tricking the owner into clicking on an infected attachment or web page.
- Once the ransomware is on your computer it may also search the network for other computers and replicate itself to them also.

How do you protect yourself from ransomware?

- First, make sure your anti-virus software is up to date and that your firewall is turned on. Most anti-virus applications will manage the firewall for you.
- Make sure all the security patches are up to date on your system. Microsoft distributes these updates as periodic patches. Apple distributes operating system upgrades periodically. It is important to keep current with these updates.
- Do not click on any unknown attachments or embedded links in an email.
- Make sure all your photos and important files are backed up regularly on an external disk drive.
- Periodically back up your computer so that you can recover data if you are infected.
- One problem with recovering data is the parties distributing the malware now know about your computer and location so the chances of getting re-infected are good unless you recover your system to a point before the infection.

Next tip will be suggestions on backing up your data and system.

Jim Chilcutt

An Update on RPCAP Richardson Park Community Action Program by Pastor Carolyn

As many of you know, Richardson Park Community Action Program has been a vital ministry to the community over the years. Throughout 2016, the board has met and discerned how to move RPCAP forward while still providing the vital services needed to the surrounding communities. During the last board meeting on November 17, the following reports were shared:

- 89 clients have been served since September.
- On average, 28 pounds of food is given out (2 bags per person).
- Friendship House is partnering with RPCAP to meet the needs of clients who are seeking additional help beyond what RPCAP can offer or don't qualify for RPCAP assistance.
- In Her Shoes (a ministry to women transitioning from prison back into society) is renting some space from RPCAP at a minimal cost.

RPCAP is On the Move

Due to the limitations of the current space, along with parking and the current building being inaccessible for handicap clients, the board has made a decision to move RPCAP to a location which will better serve its clients. They are seeking a tenant for the current location and will move to a more accessible space which has ample parking at Calvary Presbyterian Church in the near future. The board is in negotiations for renting out the current space.

Other Changes

In order to make sure perishable foods are as fresh as possible, RPCAP is revamping the way food is received for clients from the Food Bank of DE. Instead of perishable foods being stored on site, a form will be completed by clients and the Food Bank will deliver or someone from RPCAP will pick up the orders. The canned goods and other items which have long shelf life are still being received by RPCAP.

Because culture influences the items we like to eat, RPCAP is asking clients to fill out a form requesting items. This ensures they are supplying foods which are a staple in the culture of the client. A list will be passed on to churches who donate food.

Due to their ability to store much more than RPCAP, clothing needs will be supplied by Friendship House. RPCAP will inform Friendship House when these needs arise.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Richardson Park UMC.

December 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	2 Fellowship Hall Reserved 10 AM Bible Study - RPUMC 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel UMC	3 Fellowship Hall Reserved 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe - Christmas Décor Mini Yard Sale
4 Fellowship Hall Reserved 9 AM Sunday School 9 AM Scout Pancake Breakfast 10 AM Fellowship 10 AM UMW Unit Mtg 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:30 AM Missions Meeting 11:30 AM SPRC Mtg.	5 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Cub Scouts	6 8 PM AA Meeting	7 6:30 PM Scout Board Meeting	8 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	9 10 AM Bible Study - RPUMC 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel UMC	10 Fellowship Hall Reserved Extension Reserved 9 AM UMW Cookie Walk
11 Fellowship Hall Reserved 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:30 AM REM Team Meeting 11:30 AM UMW Baby Shower for Jesus	12 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Cub Scouts	13 8 PM AA Meeting	14	15 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM CAP Board Meeting 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	16 10 AM Bible Study - RPUMC 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel UMC 6:30 PM Koinonia covered-dish Christmas Party	17
18 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg.	19 Fellowship Hall Reserved 6:30 PM Scout Holiday Party	20 8 PM AA Meeting	21	22 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	23	24 Christmas Eve 6:30 PM Family Friendly Service 10:30 PM Candlelight Service
25 Merry Christmas! 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church	26 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Cub Scouts	27 8 PM AA Meeting	28	29 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	30	31 New Year's Eve

January 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM UMW Unit Mtg 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:30 AM Missions Mtg.	2 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Cub Scouts	3 7 PM Rebekah Circle 8 PM AA Meeting	4 6:30 PM Scout Board Meeting 7 PM Cooking Class	5 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	6 Youth Rally 10 AM Bible Study – RPUMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC	7 Youth Rally
8 Youth Rally 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:30 AM REM Mtg.	9 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Cub Scouts	10 8 PM AA Meeting	11 12 PM Ruth Circle 7 PM Book Club	12 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	13 10 AM Bible Study – RPUMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC	14
15 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:30 AM SPRC Mtg. 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg.	16 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Cub Scouts	17 8 PM AA Meeting	18 7 PM Bible Study	19 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM CAP Board Meeting 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	20 10 AM Bible Study – RPUMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC 6:30 PM Koinonia Game Night	21
22 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:30 PM Council Mtg.	23 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Cub Scouts	24 8 PM AA Meeting	25	26 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	27 10 AM Bible Study – RPUMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC	28 6 PM Saturday Night Lift
29 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church	30 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Cub Scouts	31 8 PM AA Meeting				

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Office Phone: (302) 654-0961 Office Hours: 9 AM-1 PM T-F FAX #: 655-7446
Parsonage Phone: (302) 654-8405 E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org
Carolyn Williams, Pastor



READERS

December 4	Tod Mitten
December 11	Janis Williams
December 18	Katie Klingler
December 24	Kristi Doughty
December 25	Various
January 1	Bob Collins
January 8	Ruth Phillips
January 15	Kathy Daniels
January 22	Bettie Smithy
January 29	Ashley Lang

ALTAR FLOWERS

December 4	Rich Locke
December 11	Dennis and Marlene Johnson
December 18	Anna Mae Shewbrooks
December 25	Poinsettias
January 1	Sandy Ide
January 8	Robert Truitt
January 15	TBD
At the Cross	Rich Locke
January 22	Gail Eney
January 29	TBD

FLOWERS

For the month of December, Rebekah Circle is responsible for the flowers and for the month of January, Ruth Circle is responsible.

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

Please submit your articles for the
February Messenger to the Church Office by
Monday, January 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.*