

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

Phone: 302-654-0961
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RICHARDSON PARK U.M.C.

Invites you to share the journey toward Easter.



PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Sunday, March 16th – 10:30 AM

HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE OF TENEBRE

Thursday, March 20th – 7:00 PM
R.P.U.M.C. Sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, March 21st - Noon
(Place to be determined.)

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, March 23rd
6:30 AM St. James
Episcopal Church

7:30 AM Easter Breakfast
Calvary Presbyterian Church

10:30 AM R.P.U.M.C. Sanctuary

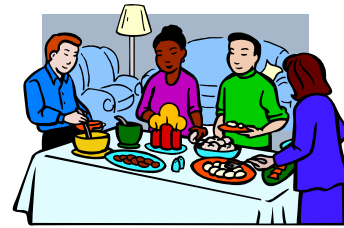
PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH MARCH 16 - AFTER WORSHIP

Admission  by Ticket Only

Adults \$7.00
Children \$3.50 (Ages 3-10)
Tickets must be purchased by
Sunday, March 9.

Tickets will be available in the
Extension after worship service on
March 2 and March 9.

For more information, please contact
Sandy Swain (994-9539).



NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Louise Evely	3/1
Hedda Loose	3/5
Morgan Straughn	3/5
Paul McGinnis, Jr.	3/6
Frankie DelCampo	3/7
Janet Dickerson	3/7
Carmen Guelen	3/7
Steven Palmer	3/7
Stephanie Swain	3/7
Kim Cloud	3/10
John DuVall	3/10
Andrew Burgos	3/12
Calvin Brosch	3/13
Susan Eveland	3/15
Josefa Majik	3/15
Donald Painter	3/15
Ruth Carter	3/16
Kevin Cecelia	3/16
James A. Chilcutt	3/18
Victoria Maher	3/29
Tom Beane	3/22
Michael Coverdale	3/23
Austin Painter	3/23
Susan Cummings	3/25
J. Robert Ashton	3/30

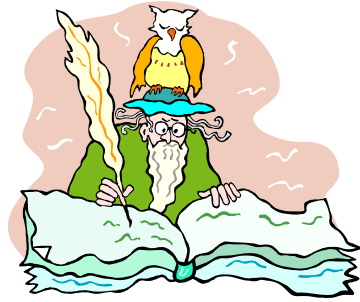
NOTE: If your name is not listed on our birthday calendar, please call the church office at 654-0961. Thank you.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS *SPRING FORWARD*

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Turn your clocks ahead one hour.



Below is our third essay, written by Kathy A. (Jackson) Russell. Thank you for sharing your special memories with us.

CHRISTMAS ESSAYS

All Christmas's are magical in their own way. Some of our favorite things about Christmas we look forward to year after year and some become family traditions. One of my family's traditions started many years ago.

Members of three or more generations would gather together on Christmas Eve and make ourselves ready for the Candlelight Service at the Richardson Park United Methodist Church. As a child, I remember my Grandfather, Percy Strickland, putting on his overcoat and patting me on the head as if to say, "It's time for church." We would file into a pew until it was full to overflowing with Stricklands and Jacksons. As the service began, my brothers and I would anticipate the time when our candles would be lit from the Christ Candle. It seemed that as the candlelight spread through the church that our spirits warmed with the magic of Jesus' birth. Singing "Silent Night" made it easy to picture the scene in the stables. It's always been a beautiful way to welcome in Christmas Day.

Over the years, my mother, grandfather, and more recently my father have gone home to be with God. The tradition of going to church as one big family has faded away. I live in hope of reviving this tradition again with my children and grandchildren. The Richardson Park Church celebration of the night before Christmas with the singing of carols, lighting of candles and sharing in the spirit of Christmas is still a most magical memory of mine.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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

Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle Mon., March 3, 7:00 p.m.
Home of Pat Cummings

Ruth Circle Wed., March 5, 10:00 a.m.
Church Lounge

Health Kits for Migrant Farm Workers

Each year, our church participates in this much needed project of Church Women United. It is not too soon to begin purchasing items for health kits for the Delmarva Rural Ministries – they need all the kits we can collect.

Each health kit should contain:

1 toothbrush	1 new washcloth
1 4 oz. tube of toothpaste	1 new bath towel
1 sturdy comb	1 4 oz. bar of soap
1 deodorant	1 shampoo

Wrap the above items in the bath towel and tie with ribbon or a pair of shoelaces.

Please bring your kits to the church office or give to Mary Alice Bair.

KOINONIA YARD SALE

March 7 – March 8

Friday, March 7	9 AM – 3 PM
Saturday, March 8	8 AM – 2 PM

If you would like to donate items for the yard sale, please make arrangements to have them picked up by calling the church office at 654-0961.

Also, we need help on Monday, March 3 at 9:00 AM to help set up the tables and on Saturday, March 8 at 2:00 PM to clean up. Thanks to everyone for your contributions, time and support for this very important project.

YOUTH-SPONSORED PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 2
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM



Our youth are sponsoring this breakfast to help raise funds for their mission trip to Maine in early July. Please join us for some delicious pancakes and fellowship.

COST OF TICKETS

Adults	\$ 7.00
Children	\$ 5.00
Family	\$20.00



WESLEY TOWER BANKS

February 2008 \$127.98

Thanks to everyone for remembering to bring your filled banks to church the first Sunday of each month. Our total to date for 2008 is \$278.75. Remember to pick up an empty bank as you leave the altar area on the first Sunday of each month. **AGAIN, THANKS FOR SAVING YOUR CHANGE.**

MISSION TREE



On Sundays in March, we are hanging “**Easter Eggs**” on our Mission Tree. Hang an “Easter Egg” on the tree in honor or memory of someone special to you. Minimum donation is \$1.00. Our tree is located in the Sanctuary.

FOOD FOR CAP

CAP is in need of the following items for their food pantry:

Canned Spam, Canned Tuna
Peanut Butter, Jelly
Canned Fruit

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

UPCOMING MISSION EVENT

SOUP AND PIE SALE
March 14



Look for the Soup and Pie order form in this newsletter. Note that pick-up time is between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM on Friday, March 14.

Organ Spectacular 2008-2009

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) has set a date, October, 19, 2008, as an international day of celebration. The theme will be a focal point of the 2008-2009 **International Year of the Organ Celebration** with media attention. Regional and national recitals are expected to be hosted. Visit www.agohq.org for more information.

Our own 57-rank pipe organ is a spectacular theatre-style organ which requires skilled technicians to maintain. We are in the process of searching for a new contractor to help Jay Cummings tune, repair and maintain the instrument. We contacted three pipe organ contractors and will be reviewing their proposals. Jay Cummings, Kathy Russell and Terri Weaver will make their recommendation of the selected contractor and submit the contractor's proposal to church council for final approval.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Annual Strawberry Festival

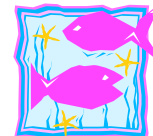
Saturday, June 7

Peniel United Methodist Church



ZINGO TAPES

We're off to a great start this year! We've already received our first check from the Zingo register receipt rebate program...for \$205.45. Thanks to all our church family and community friends for your continued support.



The surf is up for this summer's

Vacation Bible School

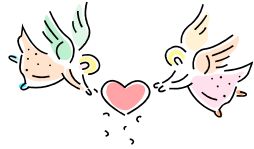
so hold the dates

June 22 - June 26

(For information or to give us a hand, call:

RPUMC @ 654-0961.)

Hope to see you at the Beach Party!



KIDS' KORNER

God's Little Angels



Well, with spring approaching, we will be gearing up for our Wesley Tower planting. This is a special project that we hold near and dear to our hearts. It not only beautifies our church surroundings and is enjoyed by the community, but it is enjoyed by our special church family as well. It is still too early for planting, but we will notify you when we have firmed up our planting dates and would welcome any help or contributions. More information to follow as the weather breaks and the warm weather approaches.

PreK – 5th Grade – Classroom 3



Sunday School

During March, we will learn about the

1. Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:34)
2. Last Supper (Matthew 26:17)
3. Welcome Fit for a King (Matthew 21:1)
4. Resurrection (John 20:1, Luke 24-1)
5. Doubting Thomas (John 20:24)

We will utilize role-play, flannel board stories, experiments, class discussions, and Bible reading to reinforce our weekly studies. It will be a very busy month!

Youth Sunday School 6th - 12th Grades

As this special time of year approaches, we will be eager to brush up on some of our traditional teachings about Easter and Jesus, as well as explore some new areas as well. From Mercy to Martyrdom, Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, it is sure to be quite a month. As always, with our youth, they bring a fresh perspective to our classroom and we try to give them the knowledge that they need to be able to go forth and do God's work.

Our studies this month will include teachings from Leviticus, Chronicles, Ecclesiastes, John, Peter and much, much more. We will explore the topics of Mercy, Martyrdom, Marriage and we even have a new in depth look at The Lord's Prayer.

To keep it fun, we will be referencing "Veggie Tales," (always a crowd pleaser) and performing some skits and plays, which our youth are very good at.

As we continue through the season of Lent and approach Easter, we want to reinforce our teachings from the Bible and also give the youth something that they can use in their daily lives. It is sure to be a very exciting month!

Marlene Johnson and Annette Ott

If you have any questions, please speak with our dedicated teaching staff!

PreK thru Grade 5 – Marlene Johnson, Donna Chambers and Michelle Anderson
Grades 6 thru 12 – Kristi Doughty, Rob Anderson and Annette Ott



MUSIC NOTES

Terri Weaver, Director

As a youth, going to church was more about frequency rather than substance. My organ teacher spent no time discussing the purpose of Preludes and Postludes as they related to church services. When I found my religion, better yet, when it found me, I developed a different sense for their purpose.

Preludes as defined by Miriam-Webster Dictionary: “An introductory performance, action, or event preceding and preparing for the principal or a more important matter.” For RPUMC...**it prepares us for the worship service.** It opens our senses for the appreciation of God’s presence and themes for the worship service. For some it may be a spiritual preamble, a time for quiet reflection.

A **Postlude** is the final chapter of a church service. The music selected is not for a “concert” or for personal performance. It concludes the worship service and sends the congregation to be messengers of God’s word.

Music is one of the most important parts of a congregation's life. Through music, a congregation worships together, teaches its children, expresses its common joys and sorrows, celebrates and proclaims its history and tradition. Music plays an important part in the worship of biblical communities, as a way of approaching the mystery of God and expressing the joy of his presence. The Gospels record that Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn after the Last Supper (Matt. 26:30; Mark 14:26).

The Preludes, Postludes, Offertories and hymns presented each week during worship service are an expression of joy, sorrow, reflections and love of Christ. As a servant of God, the music I play is my expression, too. It is not performed for applause or self-gratitude but as a gift to praising God in a different way.

As you enter the Sanctuary each week and hear the awesome pipe organ or other instruments, continue to keep in mind the purpose of the Prelude and Postlude: Our appreciation of God’s presence in this Holy place.

If you have been thinking about helping with chancel bells or choir and don’t want to commit for “all the time,” perhaps this schedule will entice you to join us:

Practice Schedule for 4-20-08 3:00 PM Concert						
		Time	choir	<i>time</i>	<i>handbells</i>	strings
Tuesday	18 Mar	7:30	x	6:30	x	
Thurs	27-Mar	7:30	x	6:30	x	
Thurs	3-Apr	7:30	x	6:30	x	
Thurs	10-Apr	7:30	x	6:00	x	
Sunday	13-Apr	3:00	x	3:00	x	x
Thurs	17-Apr	7:00	x	6:00	x	
Sunday	20-Apr	2:00	X	1:45	X	X

NOTE: The Thursday, March 20 practices have been changed to Tuesday, March 18.

We are planning to have bells, choirs, duets/solos and (your name here) _____ plus a string group called “Shaw Strings.” Can we add you to the list for the concert?

Call Terri Weaver at the church office.

Faithfully, *Terri Weaver*

ALTAR EASTER LILIES

If you would like to place a lily on the Altar for Easter, please return this form to the church office by Monday, March 10. Cost of each plant is \$8.00. Please make your check payable to Richardson Park United Methodist Church and mark "Easter Lilies" on the memo line.

Number of Plants _____

Donor's Name _____

In Memory of
(for those not living) _____

In Honor of
(for those living) _____

In Memory of
and Honor of _____

Check/Amount Enclosed: _____

Shall we deliver your flower to a Church Shut-In? YES _____ NO _____

Please arrange to pick up your flowers immediately after the Easter worship service if they are not being delivered to a shut-in. Thank you.

SOUP & PIE SALE
Sponsored by the Mission Committee

PICK UP DATE!!
Friday, March 14
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

SOUP - \$5.00 PER QUART

Vegetable Beef _____ **Qts.**

PIES - 10" DEEP DISH - \$10.00 EACH

Apple _____ **Qty**

Cherry _____ **Qty.**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NO. _____

**Please submit your order by Monday,
March 10 by contacting:
Ruth Berry at 654-4797
Betty Swain at 838-6044
Church Office at 654-0961
or mail this form to the church.**

Thank you.

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

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“THE MESSENGER” MARCH 2008

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Office Phone: (302) 654-0961 Office Hours: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM M-F FAX #: 655-7446

Parsonage Phone: (302) 652-6168
Bill Green, Pastor

E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org



LAY READERS

March 2	Joe Tucker
March 9	Jennifer Fitzgerald
March 16	Betty Swain
March 23	Lillian Simmons
March 30	Herb Atkinson

ALTAR FLOWERS

March 2	Tony & Glenda Donnelly
March 9	Jay & Pat Cummings
March 16	Joan Stadelman
March 23	Easter Lilies
March 30	Carolyn Swain

FLOWERS

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

Please submit your articles for the April Messenger to the Church Office by Monday, March 10. Thank you.

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**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.