

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

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O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

- Psalm 136:1 (Revised Standard Version)

I was looking through one of the books on my shelf the other day. It's called *Children's Letters to God*, and is really just what it says. As I flipped through the pages, this short letter below caught my attention:

*Dear God,
Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy.
Joyce*

My first reaction was to laugh and say to myself, "You tell him, Joyce!" But then, as I let the meaning of this sink in, I found within myself the same great expectations as this young girl—expectations that God was going to give me what I wanted just because I asked. These thoughts always send me back to Matthew Chapter Seven where the Scripture says, "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." This sounds really good doesn't it!! But the result is that we often skip over the message in the last half of the paragraph, "Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him?" All of these words about prayer got me thinking.

As I reflected on this quote from Jesus lifting up the power of prayer, my focus slid to the last verse in the paragraph. I thought about these "good" things that God gives us. What are the criteria for considering them good? Is it good if the gift benefits me at the time it is given? Is it still good if I have to wait ten or twenty years for the gift to be useful? If it seems bad at the time it is received but ultimately ends up working out well, is that a good gift? So many questions, and so few answers. My daughter, Bethany, would be so disappointed. In her immortal words which will live on in the lore of RPUMC for generations to come, "Dad, you're the pastor, you're supposed to know these things!" I sometimes wish I did know these things. But then I am reminded that when Adam and Eve's "eyes were opened," they ended up getting kicked out of the garden. I think it's best to let God be God and for me to settle for faith that God has our best interest in mind.

I can trust that God has my back because Jesus died and rose again so that I might be a new creation made new and continuing on to perfection each and every day. I may neither see God's hand at work nor may I understand what is happening in this world, but I have faith that God is actively at work in our world, even when we want a puppy and have to settle for a baby brother. So, spend some time in November thinking about the good things that have been given to you. Be thankful for the good things you have and the good times that you have experienced. Rejoice in God's presence in your life. Use your gifts to bless others who have not experienced the good things that you have received.

May your Thanksgiving be overflowing!

Blessings and Peace to you all,

Pastor Tom

The Soup Kitchen is HERE!!

Fridays 11 AM to 1 PM

St James Episcopal Church



Jusst Sooup Ministries is now running a soup kitchen on Fridays from 11 AM until 1 PM in the Newport-Richardson Park area. The kitchen is open to anyone and seeks to make a small difference in the lives of those who are most in need in our community. It is open to anyone who is hungry, and we want to invite you to partner with us to make this project successful. There are several ways that you can help us spread the good news: contribute financially, invest your time by volunteering to prepare and serve meals on Friday mornings, spend time talking with the people from the community who just need someone to listen to them, or pray for the soup kitchen to reach those who think they are beyond God's grace. Most importantly, we want you to come for a hot nourishing bowl of soup and a sandwich between 11 AM and 1 PM on Fridays. Experience the grace and fellowship that are possible when people break bread and eat soup together. Please consider stepping out in faith to make a difference in the lives of others and allow God to bless you in the process.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sandy Burkholder	11/1
Paul Ayala	11/2
Tracy Gamble	11/2
Sath Amara	11/3
Mary Fader	11/3
Frank Lindell	11/5
Kimberly Dale	11/6
Brandon Gamble	11/8
Robbie Swain	11/8
Bob Burkholder	11/11
Erin Lindell	11/11
Emma Logullo	11/11
Mary White	11/12
Barbara Sayles	11/13
Phyllis Bowman	11/14
Nickolas Gommer	11/14
John Ludlow	11/19
Clyde Nafzinger	11/20
Hannah Phillipe	11/23
Deborah Pruitt	11/25
Phyllis Thomas	11/25
Mary James	11/26
Sammy Pasmore	11/26
Louise Beck	11/27
Mallori Cochran	11/29
Laura Doughty	11/29
Kylie Parker	11/29
Tracy Simpson	11/29
Marvin Swain	11/29
Sherlynn Aurelio	11/30
Mary Alice Bair	11/30

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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

Circle Meetings

Ruth Circle	Wed., November 3 10:00 a.m. – Church Lounge
Rebekah Circle	Tue., November 2 7:00 p.m. – Church Lounge

**UMW Budget Meeting
Tuesday, November 16 12:30 PM**



**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE
AND POTLUCK DINNER**

**Sunday, November 21 - 4 PM
Wilmington Church of the Brethren**

Simpson UMC, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Peniel UMC, St. James Episcopal Church, St. Matthew Catholic Church, Richardson Park UMC, and Wilmington Church of the Brethren will come together in a community worship service to thank God for our blessings. Bring a dish and we will break bread together after the service. The offering during the service will benefit the Richardson Park Community Action Program.

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



Daylight Saving Time Ends on

**Sunday, November 7 at
2 AM.**

**Time to turn your clocks back
one hour!!!**

Mark Your Calendars

**Tuesday, November 2 – 7 AM to 8 PM
General Election
Voting at RPUMC**

**Wednesday, November 17 – 7 PM
RPUMC
2010 Charge Conference**

**Sunday, November 21 – 4 PM
Joint Thanksgiving Service/Covered Dish
Wilmington Church of the Brethren**

FOOD FOR CAP



Don't forget to bring food for CAP the first Sunday of each month. They are in need of:

peanut butter and jelly,
spaghetti noodles and soups
hot & cold cereals,
pasta sides and tuna fish
canned fruit and vegetables

ZINGO TAPES



Don't forget to bring your Zingo tapes to worship on Sundays. Just place them in the offering plates or in the wicker basket in the vestibule. Your support is appreciated. And a special thanks to all in our community who mail their receipts to the church. Please be sure to include the nine-digit zip code: Richardson Park UMC, 11 N. Maryland Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19804-1305.



WESLEY TOWER BANKS

October 2010 \$61.70

Thanks to everyone for remembering to bring your filled banks to church the first Sunday of each month. Our total to date for 2010 is \$1006.69. Remember to pick up an empty bank as you leave the altar area on Communion Sunday. AGAIN, THANKS FOR SAVING YOUR CHANGE .

Many thanks to Richard and Joey Beane for mowing and trimming the grounds here at RPUMC. Your contribution to the up-keep of our facility is greatly appreciated.

Note from the Finance Committee -----

Soon, you will be receiving a third quarter year-to-date statement of your gifts. Please be reminded that this statement is an opportunity for you to ensure you have received credit for the monetary gifts you have given to the church. Please see me if you have questions or concerns. Thank you.


Kristin Fleming
Chair



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS THIS ADVENT SEASON

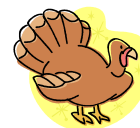
The beautiful decorations which will adorn our church on the first Sunday in Advent will be graciously provided by the following members and friends of RPUMC:

Advent Wreath	Phyllis Bowman
Altar Trees	Clyde & Carolyn Nafzinger
Altar Wreath	Jay & Pat Cummings
Altar Wreath	Ruth Gibney
Balcony Wreath	Paulette Cleaver Lazzard
Door Wreath	Kathy Russell
Door Wreath	Dorothy Scarborough
Door Wreath	Joan Stadelman
Door Wreath	Marvin & Betty Swain
Nativity Scenes	Koinonia Class



CHRISTMAS SHOPPE

*Every Thursday through December 16
9 AM - 1 PM
Located next to the Parsonage
Adjacent to the garage*



MISSION TREE

On Sundays in November, we will be hanging **Turkeys** on our Mission Tree. Hang a "turkey" on the tree in honor or memory of someone special to you. Minimum donation is \$1.00. Our tree is located in the Extension.



BRIGHTER DAY MINISTRY

The Brighter Day Ministry supports the homeless and others by distributing winter hats, gloves, and coats to those in need. They are sponsoring a drive from Nov. 14 through Nov. 28. The items will be distributed in the City of Wilmington on December 4 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Please donate only the items mentioned above.

A container is located in the back of the Sanctuary where you can place your donations. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Shannon at 543-5612.

SEVENTH ANNUAL ALUMNI CHOIR CONCERT

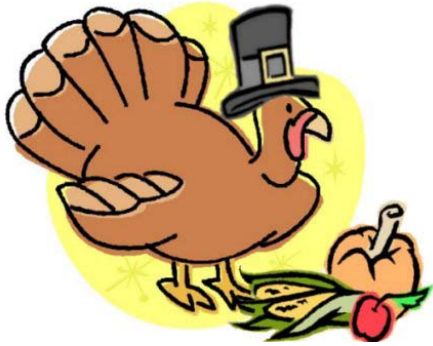
Under the direction of Ms. Bettie Smith

*Sunday, November 14 - 4:00 PM
Gathering and Hymn Singing - 3:45 PM*

*Central Baptist Church
839 N. Pine Street*

*Freewill offering to benefit Central
Baptist Outreach Ministries*

KIDS' KORNER



Hey everybody! November is such a wonderful time of year to give thanks for our church family and spend more time with them, growing in the knowledge of and love for Christ. Come share the fellowship and bring a friend!

Greetings from Room 3 and Ms. Marlene! We have been very busy learning about people in the Bible. In September, we studied David, in October we learned about Esther, and in November we will learn about another person picked by God: Daniel. Through Bible readings, class discussions and role-play, Daniel will come to life in Room 3!

Grades 4 thru 8 will begin to discuss what to do when the pressure's on – making choices. They'll focus on Proverbs 3:5-6 examining issues such as standing for my faith (what if I'm the only one saying "no"?); not compromising my values (what if saying "yes" makes me popular?); making God-honoring choices (would Jesus fit in with my friends?); and accepting my faith (what if being a Christian makes me unpopular?).

Grades 9 thru 12 will be viewing and discussing "Letters to God", a movie about a young boy fighting cancer who writes letters to God, inspiring and giving hope to others through his faith. We're asking our kids to provide input on topics they'd like to discuss and ways they will become more involved in class presentations and activities.

God's Little Angels

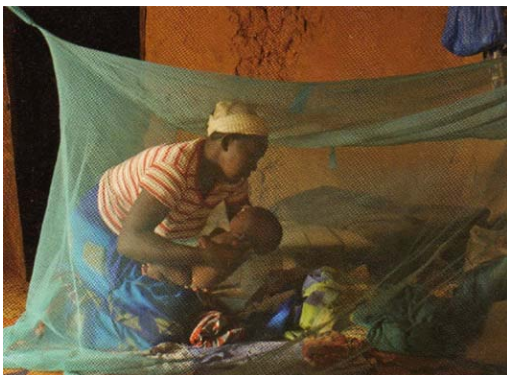


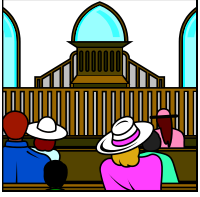
How can enjoying a delicious cup of hot chocolate on a cold night in Delaware help children across the world? Our next GLA project is selling hot cocoa kits to raise funds for "Imagine No Malaria", a partnership between The United Methodist Church, the United Nations Foundation, and other organizations to provide insecticide treated nets to families to prevent malaria. Our little angels will assemble the kits on November 21, 2010 during Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Look for our hot chocolate kits on Sunday's during Advent during the coffee hour right before church.

Malaria claims the life of a child every 45 seconds in Africa.

United Methodists have raised \$7.5 million dollars since becoming a partner in the effort in 2006. Each \$10 donation to the campaign buys a bed net. By using a mosquito net the risk of contracting malaria is considerably reduced and many lives can be saved.

In 2000, fewer than 2% of African children had nets. Now, about 19% of African children who live in areas where [malaria](#) was endemic are sleeping under [insecticide](#)-treated mosquito nets. So even though coverage has increased sharply, [90 million children](#) are still unprotected.





Laity Enlightenment

Do you consider yourself to be healthy? When you ask yourself this question, do you automatically think about your physical health? What about your mental and spiritual health? How do you even define healthy? These are all very good questions.

It's important to keep ourselves healthy in every way possible. God blessed each one of us with a unique body, mind and soul that combine to create a one-of-a-kind, original, child of God. Our gift to God in return should be to care for His creation as best we can and care for each other any way we can.

The physical, mental and spiritual aspects of wellness are all interdependent. Recently, an event in the news provided an excellent example of how these three areas of health are related and critical to our survival. The 33 miners who were trapped in a mine in Chile suffered for 70 days. They had minimal food and water and no sunlight to nourish their bodies. They undoubtedly experienced sensations of isolation and fear of never seeing their families again or probable death. Feelings of hopelessness and despair must have tested their faith. They were given water and food and light from the people attempting to rescue them. They were instructed to exercise and encourage each other. They most certainly were praying to be brought up from the depths to safety. The miners had to use every bit of their physical, mental and emotional strength to survive the ordeal. The most joyful happening in years was when the miners were each brought to the surface and rejoined with their loved ones. One man made the profound statement that it was God that kept them alive and then thanked God for saving him. He obviously recognized the connection between physical needs and spiritual beliefs. What a great testimony of Faith!

Some medical studies have illustrated a clear connection between mental and emotional stress and its negative effect on physical health and well being. There are references in the Bible that also point to the various components of health. 1 Timothy 4:8 reads, "For while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." Obviously, godliness comes first but physical fitness has its merits as well. In 1 Samuel 16:14-23, music therapy was used to combat an evil spirit. David was commissioned to play the lyre and the evil spirit was dispatched from Saul. Music has the ability to soothe and lower our stress level and blood pressure. Some biologists also believe music can positively influence plant growth. Proverbs 17:22 says, "A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones." This speaks directly to the benefits of a positive mental attitude.

Admittedly, this article may not help you answer the questions posed in the opening paragraph. If anything, it seems to lead to more questions. How do you feel today? Do you want to improve some aspect of your personal health? What would you consider doing to make a positive change to your physical, mental and spiritual health? How can we help each other in the process? Any suggestions? I have one.....

The Tower of Power Fitness Room was created with the intent to give participants the opportunity to improve their physical fitness in an atmosphere of fellowship with God and others. The Trustees renovated the Tower Room on the third floor of the church, added a fresh coat of paint and a new light fixture with a ceiling fan. The room was then outfitted with some very nice equipment donated by Dave Rogers, Carolyn Stafford and others. Finally, it is now cheerfully decorated with colorful and inspirational items to help us maintain a positive attitude while we workout. This fitness room is being implemented as a free service to participants who sign up to encourage healthy living. Fun, Fitness and Fellowship can all be achieved at the same time!

Please plan to visit during the Open House on Sunday, November 7, 2010 at 11:45 A.M. and sign up to Pray, Perspire, Praise, Persevere, Meditate and Move!

Your Lay Leader, Kathy Russell

The RPUMC Tower of Power Fitness Room Grand Opening!

Come to the OPEN HOUSE
on November 7, 2010

at 11:45 A.M.

(after Worship Service)

Meet in the choir room on the second floor to....

Tour the New
Fitness Room!

Enjoy "Healthy"
Refreshments

Register to
Participate!

Get
a FREE
Blood Pressure
Test

Learn
About
Diabetes...

Maybe Find
a Fitness
Friend!

And Much More.....

PIE SALE
Sponsored by the Mission Committee
Richardson Park United Methodist Church
Corner of Maryland and Matthes Avenues

PICK-UP DATE!!
Tuesday, November 23
3 PM - 6 PM



PIES - 10" DEEP DISH - \$10.00

Apple _____ Qty. \$ _____

Pumpkin _____ Qty. \$ _____

Pecan (\$12.00) _____ Qty. \$ _____

Total \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NO. _____

ALL ORDERS ARE PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Please submit your order by Sunday,
November 14 by contacting:

Bob Evely at 528-0509
Betty Swain at 838-6044
Church Office at 654-0961

CHRISTMAS ALTAR POINSETTIAS

Seventy red poinsettias have been ordered to be placed on the Altar on Sunday, December 19. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in Memory or Honor of Loved Ones, please return this form to the church office by Monday, December 6. The cost of each poinsettia is \$6.50. A check for the total amount should be included with this order form. Please make your check payable to Richardson Park United Methodist Church, marked "poinsettias." If possible, please pick up your poinsettia after the candlelight service on Friday, December 24.

Number of Plants _____

Donor's Name _____

In Memory of
(for those not living) _____

In Honor of
(for those living) _____

In Memory and
And Honor of _____

Check/Amount Enclosed: _____

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



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 **NOVEMBER 2010**

Return Postage Guaranteed
Address Service Requested

Office Phone: (302) 654-0961
Parsonage Phone: (302) 652-6168
Tom Pasmore, Pastor

Office Hours: 9 AM-1 PM T-F FAX #: 655-7446
E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org



LAY READERS

November 7
November 14
November 21
November 28

Ryan Warfel
Sherlynn Aurelio
Susan Durkee
Youth

ALTAR FLOWERS

November 7
At the Cross
November 14

At the Cross & Lectern
November 21
At the Lectern
November 28
At the Cross

Mary White
Kathy Russell
William Farra
Mary & Richard Sutor
Charlene & Bruce Workman
Bettie Smith
John Burke
Jeanne Thomas



FLOWERS

For the month of November, Ruth 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
December Messenger to the church office by
Tuesday, November 9. Thank you.

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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.*