

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



The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God’s Son. Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled ‘unable to conceive’ is now six months pregnant. Nothing is impossible for God.”

- *Luke 1:35-37 (Common English Bible)*

I have been thinking a lot about the power of the story this week. Why is it that stories hold such power over us, especially the great ones? One of Sarah’s favorite movies is *Gone with the Wind*. (I have only watched it twice with her because of the length. Not enough car chases to keep my interest.) There is a scene at the beginning of the movie where Scarlett’s dad, Gerald O’Hara (played by Uncle Billy . . . ah, I mean Thomas Mitchell), says to her as they are standing on a hill overlooking their plantation, Tara, “The only thing you can trust is land. It’s the only thing that lasts forever. It will come to you, this love of the land. There’s no gettin’ away from it if you’re Irish.” It’s as if Victor Fleming, the director, (or Margret Mitchell, the author, for that matter) was advertising the fact that Scarlett will suffer greatly because she can’t bear to give up Tara and follow Rhett. This is about the point in the movie that Sarah starts crying. The imminent foreshadowing is almost

too much for her to bear. This story is so enticing and powerful that 15 minutes into the four-hour spectacle it already has Sarah under its spell.

Great stories are like that, no matter how many times we’ve seen them. They connect us to our very best and our very worst and often push buttons in our souls that we didn’t even know we had. Think about our own Christian story, the one we read of in the New Testament, of God pouring God’s self into human form and then teaching us the way to bring about the Kingdom of God on earth. This is the Christmas story that we’ve heard over and over again.

For those of us who are followers of Jesus, this story has changed our lives and continues to change our lives. How can we tell it in a way that connects with people that are fans of the various movies listed above? The story itself is perfect but our retelling often is not. As the old hymn says, “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations,” but is anyone listening to the seemingly tired refrain? Or can we tell the Jesus story and our own very personal story of Jesus in our lives in a new and fresh way? A way that shows the way that God is at work in today’s world? I’m convinced that with the Spirit’s help we can.

May this Christmas be the merriest one ever . . .

Pastor Tom

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



Sunday, December 4

12:30 PM

United Methodist Women
 Christmas Luncheon
 Bring your favorite dish
 to share.

Sunday, December 11

12 PM – 4 PM

Kids' Day Out

Join us for an afternoon of fun and
 games – Lunch included!

Saturday, December 17

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Family Advent and Covered Dish
 With Skits and Santa

Sunday, December 18

4:00 PM

Christmas Caroling

6:00 PM

Carol Sing

St. James Episcopal

Saturday, December 24

6:30 PM - Family Candlelight
 Service

10:30 PM - Traditional Candlelight
 Service



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

William Edwards	12/2
Patrick Elliott	12/2
Bruce Workman	12/2
Anthony Burgos	12/3
Bryan Cummings	12/3
William Klingler, Jr.	12/4
Andrea Burgos	12/5
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
Carolyn Stafford	12/11
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
Holly Bentley	12/16
David Brown	12/16
Shirly Ritter	12/19
Michael Toy	12/22
Adeline Le Breton	12/23
Tom Atkinson	12/25
Cheryl Lynn Krebs	12/25
Barbara Przywara	12/26
Betty Swain	12/26
Bill Aurelio	12/27
Neal Davis	12/27
Amanda Graham	12/31

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



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Michael Coverdale	1/2
David Swain	1/2
Paigely Boyd	1/4
Sarah James	1/4
Harold Spedden	1/4
Ken Horne	1/5
Donny Pasmore	1/6
Lee Powell	1/8
Alexis Anderson	1/10
Cindi Beane	1/11
Joseph Watkins	1/12
Dillon Keffer	1/14
Tiffany Scott	1/14
Julie Oakley	1/15
Kiersten Hughart	1/16
Gillian Fader	1/17
Ginger Pettyjohn	1/17
Michael Burgos	1/18
Emmanuel Lee	1/18
Ruth Phillips	1/19
Tony Donnelly	1/20
Kristi Doughty	1/23
Christina Dale	1/29
JoAnn Jamison	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 office at 654-0961. Thank you.



MISSION TREE



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

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. All Circles will help with the poinsettias.

Circle Meetings

Esther Circle	No Circle meeting In December Sun., January 29 11:30 a.m. - Lounge
Rebekah Circle	Sun., December 4 11:30 a.m. Tue., January 3 7:00 p.m. - Lounge
Ruth Circle	Sun., December 4 11:30 a.m. Wed., January 4 10:00 a.m. - Lounge

UMW Christmas Covered-Dish Sunday, December 4 12:30 PM

Ladies from Peniel UMC, as well as our district president, Fonda Meekins, have been invited to join us for a delightful afternoon of food, fellowship and special entertainment. Please join us in Fellowship Hall.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 - 9:30 AM Annual Cookie Walk

The last UMW fundraiser of the year is December 10 in the Extension. You don't want to miss this delicious walk! You will be able to fill a decorative bag with cookies. One-half pound is \$5.00. Come join the fun and enjoy the cookies.



MISSION TREE



On Sundays in January, we are hanging **Snowflakes** on our Mission Tree. Hang a "snowflake" on the tree in honor or memory of someone special to you. Minimum donation is \$1.00. Our tree is located in the Extension.

FOOD FOR CAP



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

Cereal, oatmeal, boxed potatoes, boxed sides, peanut butter, jelly, peas, beans and non-perishable items.

THRIFT STORE NEEDS..

Clean and sized clothing, detergent and bleach, paper products, diapers, sanitary items, and aluminum cans to recycle.

Humor to enjoy...



A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy" the young boy replied excitedly. It stands for "Basic Information Before Leaving Earth."

CHRISTMAS  **SHOPPE**

Every Thursday through December 22

9 AM - 1 PM

Located next to the Parsonage

Adjacent to the garage

KIDS' KORNER



Greetings from Room 3!

We will be very busy during the month of December in preparation of Jesus' birth. We will be traveling to Bethlehem along with many other people. We will be singing new songs, acting out new skits, and placing various items in the classroom manger. Stop in to visit us - it will be an exciting time.

In January, we will be studying the boy Jesus - how he grows and learns about his Father, God. Yes, it will be quite an adventure - you might not want to miss it!!

Blessings for a wonderful season filled with love, joy, and laughter.

Ms. Marlene

Coming Soon to a
Sunday School Class Near You

CHRISTIANITY 101

Pastor Tom will be teaching an introduction to the Christian faith beginning on Sunday, January 15 at 9 a.m. during our regularly scheduled Sunday School time. This class is intended to help refresh the memory of the long-time believer or give a basic understanding of the faith to someone who is just getting started on their journey of faith. The primary teaching tools are the Bible and some wonderful videos by Nicky Gumbel and Rob Weber. You won't want to miss it!!



YOUTH NEWS



Christmas Caroling 4:00pm, Sunday, December 18

Join us for an afternoon of spreading the Joy
of Christmas with our shut-in members.
Friends and past youth group members are
welcome to attend!!

IMPORTANT DATES

- December 4 —
Regular Youth
Group at 5:30pm
- December 11 —
Help with Kids'
Day Out at Noon
in Fellowship Hall.
- December 17 —
Family Advent
Night with Covered
Dish Dinner and
Christmas
Program, 5:30pm
- December 18 —
Christmas Carol-
ing at 4pm
- December 25 — No
Youth Group
- January 1 — No
Youth Group
- January 6-8 —
Youth Rally in
Ocean City
- January 15 —
Regular Youth
Group at 5:30pm
- January 22 —
Regular Youth
Group at 5:30pm
- January 29 —
Regular Youth
Group at 5:30pm



Dan Reiland's book, "Shoulder to Shoulder - Strengthening Your Church By Supporting Your Pastor," contains the following well-thought-through, simple and practical plan that will help you pray effectively for our pastor. This weekly prayer plan can be done in just a few minutes a day.

Monday: Pray For Our Pastor's Family

- + God's peace and protection
- + A growing love relationship with his/her spouse
- + A commitment to quality and quantity time together

Tuesday: Pray For Wisdom For Our Pastor

- + The mind of Christ
- + Godly decision-making
- + Understanding of Biblical truth

Wednesday: Pray For Our Pastor's Ministry Focus

- + Clear vision
- + Commitment to Biblical priorities
- + Remain true to his/her God-given gifts and strengths

Thursday: Pray For Our Pastor's Health

- + Protection of his/her body and mind
- + An extra portion of stamina and strength
- + Commitment to stress-releasing activity

Friday: Pray For Our Pastor's Spiritual Growth

- + A heart for God and the lost
- + Fresh Biblical insights
- + Personal devotions not related to sermon preparation

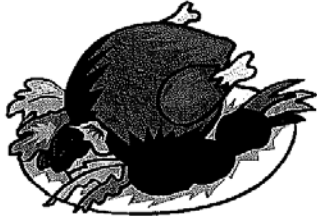
Saturday: Pray For Our Pastor's Purity

- + Pure motives
- + Pure thought-life and faithfulness to his/her spouse
- + Pure commitment to complete integrity

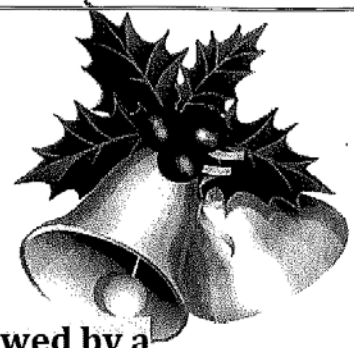
Sunday: Pray For God's Anointing On Our Pastor

- + Strength in leadership
- + Passion in preaching
- + Fruit and joy in ministry

AT OUR ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 14,
REV. DERRICK PORTER, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, SHARED
WITH US A REQUEST FOR OUR CONGREGATION TO PRAY FOR
OUR PASTOR AND HIS FAMILY DURING THE COMING YEAR.
PLEASE CONSIDER INCLUDING THIS OUTLINE FOR GUIDANCE,
GROWTH AND MORE IN YOUR DAILY PRAYER TIME.



TURKEY DINNER!

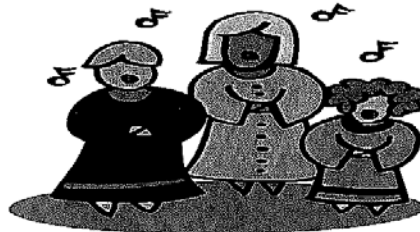
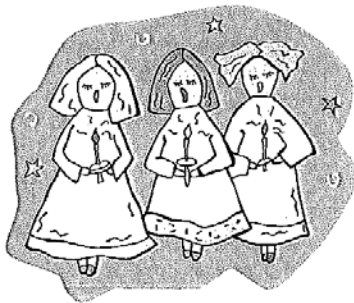


Come join us for a Delicious Holiday Meal followed by a
Community Carol Sing

- When:** December 18, 2011
- Where:** St. James Episcopal Church
2 Augustine Street, Newport
994-2029
- Time:** 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- Menu:** Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce
Dessert and Coffee or Tea
- Cost:** \$7.00 adults
\$5.00 children ages 4-12

CAROL SING BEGINS AT 6:00 P.M.

(No charge to attend the Carol Sing)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2011</h1>						
4 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 12:30 PM UMW Christmas Covered-Dish 5:30 PM Youth Group	5 6 PM Discipleship Exp.	6 8 PM AA Meeting	7 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting	8 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch Thur. 3:30 PM Kids' Café 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	9 10 AM Discipleship Exp. 11 AM Free Lunch Fri.	10 9:30 AM UMW Cookie Walk
11 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Education Mtg. 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg. 12 PM Kids Day Out	12 6 PM Discipleship Exp.	13 8 PM AA Meeting	14 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting	15 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch Thur. 3:30 PM Kids' Café 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	16 10 AM Discipleship Exp. 11 AM Free Lunch Fri.	17 5:30 PM Family Advent and Covered-Dish
18 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 4 PM Christmas Caroling	19 6 PM Discipleship Exp.	20 8 PM AA Meeting	21 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting	22 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch Thur. 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	23 11 AM Free Lunch Fri.	24 6:30 PM Family Candlelight Service 10:30 PM Traditional Candlelight Service
25 Merry Christmas! 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship	26	27 8 PM AA Meeting	28 7:30 PM NA Meeting	29 11 AM Free Lunch Thur. 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	30 11 AM Free Lunch Fri.	31

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy New Year! 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship	2 6 PM Discipleship Exp.	3 7 PM Rebekah Circle 8 PM AA Meeting	4 10 AM Ruth Circle 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting	5 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch Thur. 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	6 Youth Rally 10 AM Discipleship Exp. 11 AM Free Lunch Fri.	7 Youth Rally 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe
8 Youth Rally 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Education Mtg. 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg.	9 6 PM Discipleship Exp.	10 8 PM AA Meeting	11 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting	12 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch Thur. 3:30 PM Kids' Café 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	13 10 AM Discipleship Exp. 11 AM Free Lunch Fri.	14
15 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Council Mtg. 5:30 PM Youth Group	16 6 PM Discipleship Exp.	17 8 PM AA Meeting	18 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting	19 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch Thur. 3:30 PM Kids' Café 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	20 10 AM Discipleship Exp. 11 AM Free Lunch Fri.	21
22 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 5:30 PM Youth Group	23 6 PM Discipleship Exp.	24 8 PM AA Meeting	25 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting	26 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch Thur. 3:30 PM Kids' Café 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	27 10 AM Discipleship Exp. 11 AM Free Lunch Fri.	28
29 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Esther Circle 11:30 AM UMW Unit Mtg. 5:30 PM Youth Group	30 6 PM Discipleship Exp.	31 8 PM AA Meeting	6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting			

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

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DECEMBER 2011 & JANUARY 2012

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Office Phone: (302) 654-0961 Office Hours: 9 AM-1 PM T-F FAX #: 655-7446
Parsonage Phone: (302) 652-6168 E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org
Tom Pasmore, Pastor



READERS

December 4	Betty Swain
December 11	Sarah Pasmore
December 18	Katie Meadows
December 25	Pat Cummings

January 1	Carol Cathell
January 8	Tod Mitten
January 15	Ryan Warfel
January 22	Lillian Simmons
January 29	Lee Powell

FLOWERS

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

Please submit your articles for the February Messenger to the Church Office by Monday, January 9. Thank you.

ALTAR FLOWERS

December 4	Harriet-Ann van Boven
December 11	Dorothy Burris
December 18	Poinsettias
December 25	Anna Mae Shewbrooks

January 1	Doris Evans-Schippers
January 8	Robert Truitt
January 15	Sandy Ide
January 22	Gail Eney
January 29	Dennis and Marlene Johnson

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

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.