



# Quakertown United Methodist Church

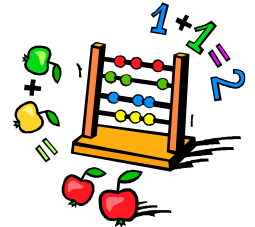
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Visit our website at [www.qumc.com](http://www.qumc.com)

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

March 2010

## Subtracting and Adding



Much is made of the giving up of something for Lent, and there is great value in self-denial. At the same time, maybe we should also think of what we can add that will be of benefit to others, as well as take us further in the process of maturing in our faith.

Be sure to read Pastor Josh's page in this newsletter. He is challenging us both to subtract (all beverages except water) and to add (life-giving clean water wells) for people who have no access to safe drinking water.

Some suggestions of what we can subtract:

- The habit of criticizing ideas and persons;
- Judgmentalism;
- Selfishness and self-centeredness;
- Incivility and rudeness;
- Demonizing those with whom we disagree;
- Busyness that crowds out time we should spend in prayer and Bible reading;
- Anything that belies our claim that we are followers of Christ.

What should we add?

- Self-discipline;
- The practice of doing random - and scheduled - acts of kindness;
- A regular quiet time with God, which we continue all year long;
- The practice of showing appreciation;
- Gratitude to God and others;
- Readiness to be peacemakers;
- Regular participation in worship, if we have grown careless about that;
- Courtesy - agreeing to disagree agreeably;
- Everything that shows evidence that we are indeed followers of Christ.

Make your own lists. The important thing is to take spiritual inventory and then to take the steps necessary to align our lives with Christ's teaching and example.

*"I gave up coffee creamer for Lent one year.  
By the end of the tenth day, I began to love black coffee.  
That's the year I learned that it isn't giving up things that counts.  
I became aware that only internal change really counts."*

-Joan Chittister in Listen With the Heart

# Nancy's Nook



Gold medal, honor roll, marriage, excellence, and Christian life. What do all these have in common? They all require “commitment.”

An Olympic champion does not just get up some morning and say “I think I will win the speed skating gold medal.” The student does not just show up for the final exam and become an honor student. Good marriages do not just happen. Excellence is not just getting up in the morning and going to work. Christian life is not just attending church for an hour on Sunday morning.

In March we are smack-dab in the middle of Lent; a time for evangelism and for true conversion - a time for growing through repentance, fellowship, prayer, fasting, and concentration on our baptismal covenant. We are to be signs of God’s kingdom in this world. The themes of repentance and preparation for the sharing in the death and resurrection of Christ are basic. Lent is thus not giving up something, but rather taking upon ourselves the intention and receptivity to God’s grace.

Every year churches proclaim the repentance and preparation part of Lent - and I agree that this is very important. But this year I would like us at Quakertown United Methodist Church to take a look at our commitment as Christians and especially as Christians who worship at Quakertown United Methodist Church.

How committed to Quakertown United Methodist Church and its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ are we as a congregation? As individuals? Do we show up (and participate!) for worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study? For social and fund-raising functions? Do we agree to be greeters, ushers, liturgists, teachers, nursery workers, and committee members, and then not show up for our duties? Do we put “church” first in our lives or do we see church as, “Well, I have nothing else to do...,” or say, “Someone else will do it”? What about those who claim, “I am too busy!”?

Being a congregation, a church of Jesus Christ, takes commitment - a lot of it. It means commitment from everyone!

As we prepare for the glory of Easter, let each of us look at our commitment to Christ, to the church universal, and to Quakertown United Methodist Church. Where can each of us do better in our commitment? The “award” is not a medal or a trophy, a good marriage, a good paying job; the reward is our salvation and everlasting life.

Christ was committed to his journey. As followers of Christ, can we do anything less?

May you have a blessed Lent!

In Christ’s service,



# Worship During Lent

The sermons for Lent and Easter promise a journey - a journey of stones. It is a journey of prayerful and honest repentance that will lead us also on a journey of celebration, of grace, of awe at the miracle of the empty tomb and the promise of life.

I pray that as we lay our stones, our sins, our tears at the foot of the cross that the Holy Spirit will meet us there and we will be changed.

May you have a blessed Lenten season.

March 7 - Third Sunday of Lent, Communion

Theme: 1 Peter 2:4-5

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Message: "Living Stones"

March 14 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Theme: Who in the world did the Pharisees and scribes think they were? These religious men of means of first-century Judaism, who continually confronted Jesus with road blocks of reason, while Jesus confronted them with building blocks of justice and love.

Message: "Hearts of Stone"

Scripture: Luke 11:37-52

March 21 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Theme: Do we give answers without listening to or thinking about the question?

Message: "Upon this Rock"

Scripture: Matthew 16:12-20

March 28 - Palm/Passion Sunday

Theme: The journey has finally come to its illogical conclusion. After three years of preaching and teaching and helping and healing, Jesus arrives in the city of Jerusalem and he is met by the screaming crowds. We still have a week to go in the season of Lent, but today marks the beginning of the "end" for Jesus.

Message: "Crying Stones"

Scripture: Luke 19:29-40



March 29 - Holy Monday

Message: "The Correct Lens"  
Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9, Philipians 2:5-11, John 12:1-11

March 30 - Holy Tuesday

Message: "Living the Good Life: Even When All Seems Lost"  
Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 71, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

March 31 - Holy Wednesday

Message: "The Cross: An Ornament or An Imprint"  
Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 71, Hebrews 12:1-3, John 12:20-36

April 1 - Maundy Thursday

Theme: Service of Basins with Communion  
Message: "Stones to Bread"  
Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

April 2 - Good Friday

Theme: *It is finished! But what is "it"?*  
Message: "The Final Stone"  
Scripture: Matthew 27:60

April 3 - Easter Vigil

Theme: *It's over now. Why do you wait here?*  
Scripture: Matthew 27:24-66, Mark 15:16-47, Luke 23:24-56, John 19:1-42  
Meditation: "Thoughts of Peter: The House in Jerusalem, early morning"

April 4

Sunrise Service  
Congregational Breakfast  
Traditional Worship - 8:00 a.m.  
Contemporary Worship - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.  
Service of Resurrection - 11:00 a.m.



## Just For Kicks !!!

Lent is a forty-day period when Christians prepare for Easter. It's a season of prayer and fasting, as we intentionally carve out space to focus on God. One of the most customary ways Christians participate in Lent is by fasting or abstaining from something that takes their attention away from Christ. It needs to be said that Lent is not a work or deed that we do to find favor in God's sight, but rather, is something we do to express our love for God.

Lent begins each year on Ash Wednesday (this year, February 17), but it's never too late to begin participating in the practice of fasting from whatever God has called you to abstain. This year we suggest that as a congregation we all give up the same thing, together. Here's our idea:

Every 17 seconds a child dies from waterborne diseases. Many in the developing world do not have access to clean water; the only water available to them is polluted and filled with diseases. It's almost impossible to comprehend this statistic. We tend to glaze over mind-numbing figures such as these. But stop. Think about that: every 17 seconds...a child will die...due to a lack of clean water. This is unacceptable; we want to do something about it, and we want to start this Lent by participating in the **40 Days of Water** challenge.

The plan is that throughout Lent our entire congregation will drink nothing but water. We will give up all other beverages—coffee, tea, soda, juice, etc.—and instead drink just water. Of course this is optional, but we think it will be a powerful testament and reminder of what it means to be part of a community and the Body of Christ. There are at least five reasons to join us:

1. Fasting in community with the rest of the QUMC congregation will be a powerful witness to our oneness and unity in Christ.
2. Drinking more water is healthy and will be beneficial for us on a personal, physical level.
3. It will raise awareness in our own consciousness, as we are reminded every day, at every meal, with every drink of water, that our brothers and sisters in the developing world do not have that option. It's easy to read statistics about the lack of clean water and not be affected, but hopefully this practice will keep us from forgetting and encourage us to do something.
4. Participating in the challenge may raise awareness outside of our church, as our coworkers, neighbors, friends, and families notice our new drinking patterns. It may provide an opportunity to share what we're doing, why we're doing it, and how we hope to help.
5. Over the course of drinking just water, we will save money by not buying coffee in the morning or sodas when we go out to eat. Throughout Lent we will keep track of the money we would have spent on other beverages and donate that money to Blood:Water Mission, an organization that will use the funds to drill a clean water well in Uganda.

Even if you haven't been doing the **40 Days of Water** challenge since the beginning of Lent, start now! It's never too late to make a difference. There will be an empty jug of water in the church into which you will place your money between now and Easter Sunday. Feel free to give a gift each week, or if you'd prefer, give your money all at once at the end. Of course you are also welcome to donate more than you've saved throughout these forty days, too!

One final caveat: we want to be clear that this is more than just a humanitarian program. Lent—and indeed, the whole Christian faith—is first and foremost and totally about Jesus, about centering on Jesus and becoming more like Jesus and then being Jesus to the world. That's what we're hoping for with this **40 Days of Water** challenge. We hope you'll join us.



## Calling All Gardeners ...



If you enjoy gardening, or if you would like to learn more about gardening and are interested in helping out people in need in our community, join in as we begin a vegetable garden at QUMC. The goal of the QUMC Garden is to provide donations of fresh, healthy vegetables to local relief agencies while engaging many members of our church to help address the issue of hunger in our community in new and creative ways. If you are interested in participating in this exciting opportunity, please contact Brad Leight (215.679.7637) or any member of the Rethink Church group.



## Who Loves a Mystery?

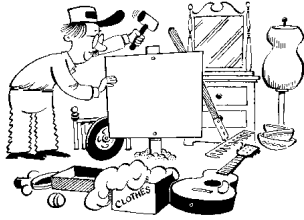
- Who: You!  
 What: A night out for a mystery dinner theater presented by the Chile Mission Trip Team.  
 When: April 17, 6:00 p.m.  
 Where: QUMC (Free childcare provided in the nurseries).  
 Why: A fundraiser to help send our team to serve with John Elmore, UM Missionary in Chile.  
 Menu: Chicken Cordon Blu, roasted potatoes, steamed vegetable, salad, dessert, dinner rolls, beverages.  
 Cost: \$25 for dinner and the show.

Join us for a night of delicious food, entertaining dinner theater (you may even get to participate!), the opportunity to try to solve the crime, and an overall enjoyable night "on the town" at a reasonable price for a good cause!

## *The Sunday-Morning Spot*



The Hospitality Table needs a few extra people to help out with baking and serving at this popular Sunday-morning spot! Helpers are needed after each of the three worship services. If you are willing to share your time and talent in this ministry of the church, contact Diana Regan (215.536.3471) or sign up on the clipboard at the table.



## Spring Rummage Sale

Friendship Circle has scheduled their annual Spring Rummage Sale for Friday and Saturday, April 9 and 10. Friday's sale runs from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., and includes a bake table and light lunch menu. Saturday's hours are from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Items to be sold may be brought to Miller Hall at the following times: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, April 6, 7, and 8, from 9:00 till noon, and Wednesday night, April 7, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Check your drawers, closets, and storage areas for good, usable items that you no longer need. Examples: clean clothing in good condition, games, toys, tools, jewelry, kitchen and other household items, baked goods, brown grocery bags. No very large and/or heavy items, please.

Lots of help will be needed before, during, and after the sale. For more information or to volunteer to help, contact Becky Petko (215.536.4741).



Faith Preschool nurtures positive relationships for children growing in God's world by utilizing a variety of educational resources, encouraging parental involvement in classroom activities, and developing community experiences.

Registration forms are available in the narthex and in the newsletter. For more information, please contact the Faith Preschool office at 215.536.8172.

### Faith Preschool Classes:

#### Two Day Program

Tuesday & Thursday ~ 9:15-11:15 a.m.

Tuesday & Thursday ~ 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Tuition: \$87.00 per month ~ Child must be age three by September 1

#### Three Day Program

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday ~ 9:15-11:30 a.m.

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday ~ 12:30-2:45 p.m.

Tuition: \$120.00 per month ~ Child must be age four by September 1

Two Day Program (Tuesday and Thursday) afternoon class has available spaces. Three Day Program is full. However, you may ask to be placed on the waiting list.



# Time Out Talk



The children in the Parent's Time Out classes have been very busy. "Teddy Bear Day" was celebrated by finger painting bears with chocolate pudding - licking our fingers was the best part! Some children came to school one Friday for lunch and a special "Gingerbread Man"-themed class. In March the children will learn how people in the Bible shared and that they can learn to share, too. This can be tricky for two- and three-year olds!

A new six-week class for young two-year olds begins on Friday, March 19. Class will run from 9:15-11:15. If you or anyone you know is interested in enrolling a child in this "Spring Special" please contact one of the teachers at 215.538.2950 or 215.538.1305.



## True Story from a Member of QUMC: God's Hands and Our Hands

I was inspired at a recent prayer meeting. We were discussing the power of prayer and how praying for one another, and being prayed for, can have profound effects upon all involved. I decided that I was going to pray for each of my fellow co-workers, one day for each.

The workplace, for many, can be an environment full of personal challenges. Firstly, not everyone is actually happy about being there. Furthermore, most of us feel no great need to have any real connection other than to handle the business at hand. We tend to view each other as "necessary evils," or tools, with nearly the same importance, as, say, a telephone or copier.

On the morning I was to begin my prayer exercise, I decided to start by taking it a step further. I decided to go in, pull my direct supervisor aside, and decide together that we were both going to have a great day, and actively help each other toward that end. We both then went to her co-supervisor and enlisted her in the same goal. Shortly thereafter, the three of us were with the general manager and announced that this was our plan and that she was welcome to join us. You could literally see the joy and relief on each face as we all now KNEW that whatever happened that day, we could effortlessly handle it. We became a TEAM, each gladly helping to minimize the challenges of the other.

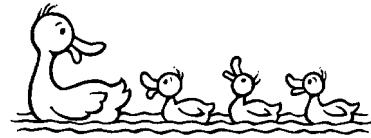
The next day I overheard two workers, not in on the initial plan, talking about how much fun they had at work the day before.

When we choose to allow God to guide the hand, we become His co-workers and great things can happen from there.

Have a great day!



# Family Matters



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Hattie Bowman - March 3; Edith Lightkep - March 18;  
Helen Heilman - March 23; Mary Schwer - March 28.

**IN MEMORIAM:** Richard Hoch - February 2.

### NOTES OF APPRECIATION:

*Dear Fellow QUMC Members,*

*“Have you heard the soft swish of angel wings in our sanctuary? Listen closely and you will hear!*

*“It is the sound of our wonderful members responding to the needs of others.*

*“Thank you from a grateful heart for your prayers, your phone calls, cards, flowers, visits, food, errands, and even walking Poco, and Pastor Nancy’s caring visits.*

*“In two years: four hospitalizations and five ambulance rides is overkill! Hopefully, all is now under control.”*

*God bless all of you, Lila Thomson*

*“We would like to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy after the recent death of Steve’s mother, Connie Hauser. The cards, kind words, and food we received during this time were truly appreciated.”*

*In Christian Love, Steve, Kim, Jarred, Justin, and Jorryn Kyra*

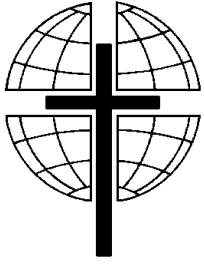
## Church Financial Report



2010 Actual Income -	\$40,020.45
2010 Budgeted Income -	\$46,194.86
<b>2010 Amount Under Budget -</b>	<b>\$6,174.41</b>

## Financial Tidbits

...Did you know that the QUMC cost for electrical power from PP&L in 2009 was \$15,401.00?



# Faith In Action

## Molly

Hello everyone!

After a nice Christmas break at home, I returned to the Dominican Republic about one month ago, and things here are crazier than ever! Although I am staff at the Jarabacoa YWAM base in the mountains, the staff from this base (myself included) is currently serving at the base in Santo Domingo, the capital. We've been here for almost three weeks now, helping out with Haiti relief work. The Port au Prince airport has been closed since the earthquake hit in mid January, so most relief workers fly into Santo Domingo to then travel into Haiti by bus. YWAM currently has two main relief operations in Haiti: one in Port au Prince and one in another main city farther north, St. Marc. These two operations are providing food, medical attention, shelter, basic living necessities, and *hope* for thousands of Haitians who were affected by the earthquake. Let me explain where I fit into the grand relief work process: with hundreds of teams flying in and out of Santo Domingo to help out in Haiti, we need people organizing flight itineraries and transportation schedules, receiving and tracking donations, and providing information and answering questions for all of the teams arriving to help. I am one of those people. I am the Dominican Republic person in charge of organizing all of our St. Marc teams. It has been an amazing and tiring few weeks of learning and serving. Check out my blog for a deeper glimpse into my life over the past few weeks: <http://lovemorelivemoredr.blogspot.com>.

Thank you for all your prayers and support; they are very much needed...especially on nights when 80 people move through this base! Amidst the chaos, God is working in so many ways, and it is wonderful to be down here in a time of such great need. Unfortunately, with all of the Haiti relief work, we have not yet been able to begin the youth ministry I am planning on starting with a missionary friend. Hopefully we will get that started and running by April, as I may not be returning to the Jarabacoa base for another week or so. If you would like to support me and my work down here in the DR, you can simply write a check to QUMC with "Molly Jamison-missions" on the memo line, and get it to the church office. Also, I beg that you would please be prayer "warriors" for me. Here are a few specific things I'd like to ask for prayer for right now:

- Physical and spiritual strength and endurance to persevere in our Haiti relief work
- All of the teams serving in St. Marc and Mision Rescate
- Restoration (physically and spiritually) for the country of Haiti (we can already see *both* happening, praise God!)
- Wisdom for leaders
- Time and wisdom to begin our new youth ministry in Jarabacoa, King's Kids

Remember: prayer is one of the most powerful tools we have to fight in the spiritual world! We need to use it!!! Thank you again for all of your support. I pray that God will continue to bless each one of you, your families, our church, and the global church as a whole. And I pray that God would be glorified in each of our lives, every single day! Amen. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

Blessings in Christ, Molly (Jamison)



## Emily

Dear QUMC Family,

Greetings from the sunny, blizzard-free Dominican Republic! I got back from Christmas break on January 11, and on the next day the earthquake hit Port-au-Prince, Haiti. It has been a wild ride for the past few months! Kids Alive has been responding to the needs of Haitian children in both Haiti and the DR - you can read about our efforts at [www.kidsalive.org/haiti-relief](http://www.kidsalive.org/haiti-relief). Personally, this winter has been exciting, as I began teaching both English and reading! I teach English to grades five to eight, and I work on letter recognition, phonics, and reading with second- and fourth-graders who currently cannot read at all. I am learning a lot and being challenged every day! In January I was able to go on a women's retreat for missionaries and other Christian women sponsored by Sojourners, and it was a wonderful time of rest and encouragement.

In the next few months I will be adjusting to teaching, juggling teaching and sponsorship responsibilities, spending time with my parents in April and with Katy in May, and simply enjoying life with my roommates Lauren and Holly. Please pray that God will encourage and guide my teaching - classroom management is more than difficult here! Pray for good visits with my family, that I would find more ways to make music here, and that I would seek God first amidst the busyness of my daily life. Especially during this season of Lent, pray that my focus stays on drawing closer to God.

Thank you so much for your support and prayers! You can read more stories and thoughts about my life here in the DR on my blog: <http://emilysislandjourney.blogspot.com>. You can also email me at [emily.jamison@my.wheaton.edu](mailto:emily.jamison@my.wheaton.edu).

“Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.” - Psalm 68:19

Love, Emily (Jamison)

## Natalie

To my church family at QUMC,

I wanted to provide you with an update on my post-seminary life!

After a very brief interlude at home in Quakertown, I accepted a job and moved to Maryland to be the part-time Youth Director at Asbury UMC in Arnold, near Annapolis. In addition, to continue on the path of living out both of my callings (and pay the bills), I began long-term substitute teaching in a middle school 20 minutes away from church. So far, I have taught sixth grade Social Studies for six weeks and am now teaching seventh- and eighth-grade Language Arts. I hope to get hired full-time in Social Studies next year, while continuing to work at church, pursuing ordination as a deacon.

Thanks for your continuing support as I continue on the journey in which God is leading me!

In Christian Love, Natalie (Finch)

P.S. I would love to hear from members of my QUMC church family. My new address is Natalie Finch, 1290 Bay Dale Drive PMB 191, Arnold, MD 21012