



# 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

October 2009

Throughout the month of November, and beginning this month, prepare for **SHOWERS OF BLESSING!**

“And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing;  
and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.”  
Ezekiel 34:26

God has promised, and we've all experienced, God's showers of blessing! This is the theme of the stewardship opportunity for the 2010 General Fund. We call it an opportunity because that's what it is: an opportunity to express, in a tangible way, our gratitude to God for his showers of blessing.

The late Dick and Phyllis Ball, members of QUMC who, after they retired from their “day” jobs, went to Africa as missionaries with Trans World Radio, often told us that the joy and gratitude expressed by the people to whom they ministered exceeded anything they ever experienced in America. These Christians, who were desperately poor by all measurements, would walk for many miles in all kinds of weather to participate in worship and to hear the word of God!

Paul speaks of the same sort of response from the Macedonian Christians, themselves poor, when they heard about the poverty-stricken believers in Jerusalem. He reports that “Fierce troubles came down on the people of those churches, pushing them to the very limit. The trial exposed their true colors: They were incredibly happy, though desperately poor. The pressure triggered something totally unexpected: **an outpouring of pure and generous gifts . . .** They gave offerings of whatever they could — far more than they could afford! — **pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians . . .** What explains it was that they had first given themselves unreservedly to God.” —2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (The Message)

Be on the lookout for mailings and other means of information about your **Stewardship Opportunity**. Stewardship Sunday is scheduled for November 22, when you will return your commitments for the General Fund. This fund supports everything — all ministry and mission in all forms — with the exception of the mortgage on the Christian Education Wing, which is a separate fund.

So keep those umbrellas closed up and let God's showers of blessing pour down!

(Read more about stewardship and sharing your “cheese” with joy from Pastor Nancy's alter ego — Sammy the Church Mouse — on page )

# Nancy's Nook



Nana Holmes loved to work on elaborate puzzles. On Saturdays she invited her grandchildren (my cousins who lived near her in New Hampshire) to help finish these masterpieces. How fulfilling would a puzzle be if it had only one piece? If a puzzle box said, "Number of Pieces: 1," that would be ridiculous. You can't have a puzzle with only one interlocking piece!

God's creation, like a puzzle, has many pieces. God created each one of us as a unique interlocking piece. After he created the first piece, a man named Adam, God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18). So he created another piece, giving Adam a woman to love and be with. God felt it was important that we not be left by ourselves. We are incomplete without others.

Nana Holmes stressed in her Saturday puzzle time with her grandchildren that they be careful with an incomplete puzzle. A puzzle's strength comes only when all the interlocking pieces have been connected. When we are "interlocked" with friends and loved ones, we are stronger. (Nana Holmes wasn't a Methodist but she sure thought like one!) That is the way God intended it from the very beginning.

Nana Holmes also reminded her grandchildren to work on puzzles on a stable surface and in a comfortable environment. The same holds true in our life. God saw a need for a good place where we could interlock with the appropriate people who could make our lives complete. So God created the church. The church is a place filled with people who recognize the importance of each interlocking piece - that's you!

God says of those who trust in Jesus as their Savior, "You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, the Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you, too, are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit" (Ephesians 2:19-22).

God invites you to be part of this "puzzle." God wants your friends connected, too. Don't continue to be left out of his masterpiece!

So where can you fit in? This newsletter is full of opportunities for you to connect with the church - numerous ways to study, serve and sing! We are working to find ways to connect all of these together.....

What a great way to grow - by studying, singing, and worshipping together, you can learn to put together the pieces of faith!

Blessings,



## Just For Kicks ! ! !

In a recent sermon, we discussed the need for followers of Jesus to engage in intentional activities that help them stay in love with God. We identified some (commonly referred to as the spiritual disciplines) that have been particularly helpful to Christians over the years and shared our commitment to comment on each of them over the next few months. The goal is to give practical bits of advice and encouragement as we strive to practice these disciplines together. In the past few months we've discussed meditation, prayer, fasting, study, simplicity and solitude; this month we'll consider the discipline of submission.

In his book *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster notes that submission is ultimately about freedom: the ability to lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our own way. In submission we are free at last to value others and free to give up our own rights for the good of others. Submission doesn't mean becoming a doormat, a pleaser, or a dependent; rather, it means loving others as much as we love ourselves. Foster identifies several acts of submission that are to mark the lives of followers of Jesus:

**We submit to the Triune God.** At the beginning of the day we wait, yielded and still, before Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our days are lived in deeds of submission interspersed with a constant awareness of inner submission. We surrender our body, mind, and spirit into the hands of God to do with us as he pleases.

**We submit to the Scripture.** As we submit ourselves to the living Word of God (Jesus), we also submit to the written Word of God (Scripture). We yield ourselves first to hear the Word, second to receive the Word, and third to obey the Word. We look to the Spirit who inspired the Scriptures to interpret and apply them to our condition. The word of Scripture, animated by the Holy Spirit, lives with us throughout the day.

**We submit to our family.** The dictum for the household should be "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Phil 2:4). Family members freely and graciously make allowance for each other, listen to each other, and share with each other.

**We submit to our neighbors and those we meet in the course of our daily lives.** The life of simple goodness is lived before them. If they are in need, we help them. We perform small acts of kindness and ordinary neighborliness: sharing our food, babysitting their children, mowing their lawn, visiting over important and unimportant matters, sharing our tools. No task is too small or too trifling, for each one is an opportunity to live in submission.

**We submit to the believing community, the Body of Christ.** If there are jobs to be done and tasks to be accomplished, we look at them closely to see if they may be God's invitation for action on our part. We can't do everything, but we can and should do some things. Sometimes these are matters of an organizational nature, but most frequently they are spontaneous opportunities for little tasks of service.

**We submit to the broken and despised.** In every culture there are the "widows and orphans," that is, the helpless and undefended (James 1:27). Our first responsibility is to be with them. We must discover ways to identify genuinely with the downtrodden and rejected.

**We submit to the world.** We live in an interdependent, international community. We cannot live in isolation. Our environmental responsibility, or lack of it, affects not only the people around the world but generations yet to be born. Therefore, starving people affect us. Wars affect us. Disease affects us. We must not ask, "What is good for America," but instead, "What is good for the whole world?"

So may you as an individual follower of Jesus and may we as a community of disciples seek to explore and practice the discipline of mutual submission in the month and year ahead. As we do, may we remember the words of Gilbert Bilezikian, that mutual submission "is much more than an ethical novelty or a convenient solution to the war of the sexes. Mutual submission pertains to the very nature of Christ and His ministry. It reaches deeply into the creation work of God."



## Thoughts from Sammy, the QUMC Church Mouse

Like many of you, I have come to love and appreciate the ministry God has given us here at Quakertown UMC. Like many of you, I am moderately active in my mouse way, “scurrying” to important meetings, “scampering” to church services (most weeks) and generally “sniffing” around things. Like most of you, I depend on the minister, the church secretary, the assistant pastor, and the rest of the staff to keep things running smoothly. It’s been a “paws-ative” experience for this little brown mousy, let me tell you!

Over the last few years (nearly half of my rodent life), growth has been the special “treat” that you “unfurred ones” share with everyone (maybe our best “treat”). Some folks have newly come to Christ while others have renewed their relationship with Jesus! Still others have begun to study their Bibles and pray with a whole new enthusiasm! Lives are being changed and more ideas and new ways of meeting the needs of folks continue to come to the church leaders. However, as I eavesdrop (I can’t help it. I’m a church mouse, I LIVE here!) at the meetings and gatherings in the church building, something has begun to really bother me. That’s why I’m using the office computer to write this. (You do know that every computer has a mouse, don’t you?) I’m just going to insert this in the Newsletter and surprise everyone.

It seems to me that in conversations among the church leaders I am hearing more talk about finances, money, and up-and-down giving than I am about Jesus, salvation and ministry. It seems as though every month this year the actual money given has been less than the budget figure. This seems to make everyone afraid. I understand because sometimes I’m like that. I look at the little lump of cheese I have in the cupboard and I look into all the eyes of all my hungry children and I want to be afraid. I want to hide my cheese away for myself and I want to forget my hungry children. I don’t even want to THINK about the needy mice out in the field!

I know that the economy is rough right now (Hey, I’m not the only one who works for peanuts!). I know that some are giving as much as they can. At the same time, I know that there are more folks than I have whiskers, folks who get this newsletter and expect the church to always be there for them with programs, staff, and great music, and who tell others that QUMC is “their” church, but they share their cheese only a *couple of times a year*. Has God blessed them only a couple of times a year?

I’m only a mouse, but when I’m afraid to share my little bit of cheese, I always hear a voice in my heart that says, “Trust me, for I care for you. You are worth more to me than all the cats in the world. If you love me, feed my nice.” Don’t you “unfurred ones” have that voice in your hearts? I thought that was what church was all about.

Have you ever thought about the bread crumbs you give here at Quakertown UMC and compared it to the dough you spend for your cable tv, your monthly car payment, a weekly night out at a restaurant, or even a daily soda and candy bar? Giving is the easiest thing to do ‘cause God never asks you to give more cheese than you have! (That would be some truck if He did!)

Here are some more things that God can say in your hearts to help you not be afraid. The big word for these heart sayings is Scripture. Scripture helps to remind us of God’s own thinking:

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“All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you.” (Deuteronomy 16:17)

“Then (Jesus) said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” (Matthew 22:21)

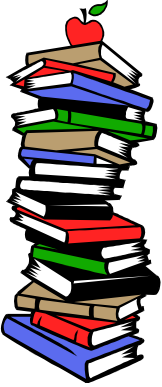
“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Well, there I said it. Perhaps a little church mouse like me should “squeak” up more often. After all, who knows more about getting caught in traps than me! Fretting about money is the biggest trap in any church. Share your cheese with joy because that says you trust God and want to do good things for Him (that’s called “ministry”).

You may not always see me but my nest is always with you.

Your fellow (and furry) servant in Christ,  
*Sammy, the QUMC Church Mouse*





## The Church Librarian

Have you ever walked around the church looking at the resources that we have and wondered about who might be using them. ARE YOU? Do you know what we have and where they are?

Of course you know that Bibles and hymnbooks are in the pews. There are more versions of the Bible and the hymnbooks in the Parlor. Oh, you don't know where the Parlor is? It is right in the middle of the building - at the end of the "old" part and the beginning of the "new" part of the building. (Oh, you didn't know that there is an "old" and "new" part of the building? Maybe we should put a little history lesson in the newsletter.)

The Parlor has a great variety of other books - novels, non-fiction, devotional books, theological books, videos and CD's, etc. If you borrow a book, please remember to bring it back.

The Sunday School supply room also has many resources for making crafts and teaching children the Bible. There are books, magazines, videos and CD's. Again, if you borrow something PLEASE bring it back and put it where you found it.

Did you know that there are tracts and devotional booklets on the wall next to the church office? And in the hall to the kitchen? Please take one or two. A donation would be nice but not necessary. Your spiritual health is too important for you not to take one because of cost.

Pastor Nancy also has many resources and books for reading in her study. Please feel free to ask to borrow them. And don't forget, QUMC is a member of the Parish Resource Center, a marvelous center with various types of resources. See Pastor Nancy or Josh for info.

Our great resource is our sanctuary. Do you need time alone? Do you need to go somewhere and pray? A quiet place to read? If the church isn't open and you want to use the room, just let the pastor know and she will make it available.

Resources that we could use (maybe as a memorial) are more large print Bibles and hymnbooks.

We are truly blessed at Quakertown United Methodist Church with wonderful resources and facilities. We are stewards of these resources; may we use them wisely in the praise of our God and King!

## Rummage Sale



Friendship Circle's annual Fall Rummage Sale is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24. Friday's sale includes lunch and runs from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Saturday's hours are 9:00 a.m. to noon. Items to be sold may be brought to Miller Hall at the following times: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning, October 20, 21, and 22, from 9:00 to noon, and Wednesday night, October 21, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Needed: clean clothing that is in good condition, brown grocery bags, baked goods, games, toys, tools, household items, jewelry. No very large and/or heavy items, please.

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



## Making Beautiful Music

Ringers needed for QUMC's bell choirs: Glory Ringers - grades 2 to 8; Senior Bells - grade 9 and up. You don't need to be able to read music. Rehearsals will begin the week of September 14. Questions? Contact bell choirs leader Becky Witt (215.538.0759).

## QUMC's Famous Chicken Barbecue



This year's Chicken Barbecue, a community favorite, is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Eat in or take out. Adults: \$9.00; children 1-8 years: \$4.00. Proceeds benefit missions.



## Thanks !!

Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies. They will be divided between Kensington Area Ministries (KAM) and Jerusalem House, an inner-city Allentown ministry.

## Fun & Fellowship



Plan to remain at QUMC following the 10:00 Festival Worship Service on Sunday, September 20, for Family Fest. Good food, good fellowship, games and activities. Watch Sunday bulletin announcements for details.



## Quakertown Food Pantry

With hard economic times, more of our community's families than ever need help. Non-perishable foods and household paper products can be brought to the church on any Sunday.

Pastor Nancy Ross has been named the new secretary for the Food Pantry.

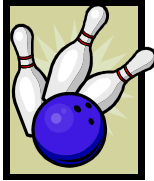


## Missionary at QUMC



Helen Sheperd, one of the missionaries QUMC helps to support through the General Board of Global Ministries, gave a report on her work in Mongolia on Wednesday, August 19. Please continue to pray for her as she ministers in a difficult environment.

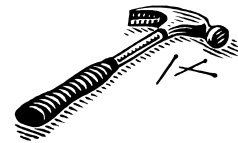
More from Helen can be found on page 12 of this newsletter.



## Still Looking for a Few Good Men

Two more bowlers are needed for the QUMC bowling team. The team will bowl on Monday nights at 6:30 at Earl Bowl. Contact Bill Diller (610.282.2646).

## Celebrating Labor Day



On Sunday, September 6 we will commemorate Labor Day during the worship services. All are asked to bring a small token of their occupation, whether presently working or retired. A carpenter may bring a hammer, a housewife may bring a broom, etc. Plan to join us for this observance of our hard work!

## Who's Who?



To help answer that question QUMC publishes an in-house pictorial directory. Believe it or not, it's time for another update to the directory. Little children have turned into teenagers, new members have joined the church, and other changes have occurred. Watch the Sunday bulletin announcements for dates and times for picture-taking.

Please don't be camera-shy! A pictorial directory with names and no pictures isn't much help in trying to learn who's who!



## People Helping People

Friendship Circle recently made contributions toward several important causes. \$260 was given to Isaiah Deng to help with the cost of his citizenship papers and to assist with car repairs; \$250 was given to Jerusalem House; and \$100 was given in support of Christine Sterner's work with the Children's Tumor Foundation.



# Family Matters



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Stephen Rhoades - September 17.

**IN MEMORIAM:** Sharon McCormack - July 7.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the following QUMC Milford Middle School students who earned end-of-the-year academic awards:

- Matthew Cornelius: Overall White Team Award; Science; Social Studies; Math Course 2
- Amanda Hafler: Math Course 1; RELA; Science
- Jennifer Sterner: Social Studies; Chorus
- Leah Kaighn: Algebra 1; Science; Health; Presidential Academic Award
- Cassandra Lapinski: Pre Algebra
- Lauren Suelke: Presidential Academic Award
- Hannah Swearingen: Presidential Academic Award

**CARDS AND LETTERS** would be appreciated by Molly Jamison, who is presently undergoing discipleship training in the Dominican Republic.

YWAM DR/DTS Unit #3027  
 Attention: Molly Jamison  
 3170 Airmans Drive  
 Fort Pierce, FL 34946

**A NOTE OF THANKS:**

*“Please apply this \$50 donation to your General Fund in appreciation for your Game Show VBS. My two children enjoyed this event. Thank you for your community outreach.”*

*—Kathleen Keough*

## Church Financial Report



2009 Actual Income To Date - \$163,132.73

2009 Budgeted Income - \$189,576.42

**2009 Amount Under Budget - \$26,443.69**



...continued from page 2

much greater things in fulfilling Jesus' call to "go and make disciples of all nations." Before I focus on those areas of encouragement, I would like to share a concern. I attended the Laity Session first and I was extremely underwhelmed by the lack of young people represented there. I did see a smattering of young folks here and there, but by no means enough. This should concern us not just as a denomination or a district or a church but as THE CHURCH. We must engage our young people and encourage them to participate in the life of our churches. If we do not, the result will be quite deadly. Young people are the future of our church and THE CHURCH. Please join me in praying that God will raise up young committed followers of Jesus to carry the banner to future generations.

My greatest encouragement and excitement came in three ways. First, we have an amazing new bishop. Bishop Peggy Johnson is the most humble, Christ-like person I have encountered in some time. She lives what she calls the rest of us to live. The theme of Sharing the Connection allowed Bishop Johnson to focus on how we are serving the least of these, those on the margins, the oppressed, the overlooked. The opening worship session was led by Rev. Vance Ross. He gave a rousing message calling us to "throw the nets on the other side of the boat" if we are not catching any fish. There were wonderful times of worship, reflection and encouragement for the future of the United Methodist Church.

Second, I was greatly encouraged by the Path 1 program, a collaborative strategy for new church starts. The goal is to reach more people, more young people, and more diverse people for Christ by creating new places for new people. The strategy includes equipping 1,000 church planters who will enable Annual Conferences to start 650 new congregations. Each in turn commits to start a new congregation within their first 10 years, thereby beginning a process that results in millions of new disciples of Jesus Christ in 30 years. Lay and clergy leaders are currently being recruited for this endeavor. If you have any interest in this program, please visit their website, [www.path1.org](http://www.path1.org).

Finally, I was encouraged by the new campaign the United Methodist Church started at the denominational level, first launched in May of this year. The campaign goal is sweeping and ambitious - to invite the church and those unchurched who seek spiritual fulfillment, to become more outwardly focused and engaged in the world. The campaign seeks to offer the church, not as a place to come to and stay within, but as a base of operation for expressing faith by moving out into communities and around the globe to become part of God's plan for world transformation. The grand hope is to spark a global conversation about what it means to live as persons of faith, disciples of Jesus Christ, in the 21st century. If the campaign is successful, it will be the catalyst for a radical return to understanding what the gospel means to us today. We have already showed the promotional video clip at each of our services earlier this summer. We will be working cooperatively to encourage our church to "Rethink Church." Our desire is that this is not just a campaign but a wake-up call to our church to be intentional about everything that we do and to be actively involved in furthering God's kingdom each day of our lives. We must engage in the ongoing conversation of what it means to be a follower of Jesus in today's world. We have a hope that needs to be shared with the world. Please join us as we join God where He is already working to change the world. Be on the lookout for opportunities to learn more about this campaign. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Nancy, Pastor Josh or myself. More information can be found at [www.10thousanddoors.org](http://www.10thousanddoors.org).

For the Kingdom,  
Michael Lehr  
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Mongolia!

One task in which I pride myself is answering correspondence which I receive from individuals. Well, you probably think this is a joke. This week I picked up an accumulation of mail from the last year which was being held at Yonsei Hospital at my VERY old address, which I haven't used for 5 years. This mail included not only birthday and Christmas greetings, but also one check. Most regrettably I haven't answered a bunch of letters from Sunday School children. So, please accept my apology for not answering your correspondence.

Now, after this lengthy introduction, let me tell you what is happening here. Last Sunday we finally had the dedication ceremony for our new mission building: Chingeltei Center. It was a great day celebrated by 400+ people with 22 guests from abroad. It truly was a wonderful dedication ceremony and a momentous day after this long 3 years of planning, redoing plans, raising funds, and now actually seeing the building finished was such a joy. We have been using the building for 6 months already, and plan to continue to use it to the Glory of God.

We are in the beginning of the season of visitors. One team came in March, our visitors for the dedication ceremony, and next week we have one of 6 teams from Korea and the U.S. These are short term mission teams usually staying from 5-10 days each. This first team will be bringing 1,000 pairs of glasses and checking visual acuity and then giving out appropriate glasses. We will have medical, dental volunteers, preachers, as well as volunteers who will help with Vacation Bible School.

The Grace Hospice team is doing well and keeping busy. We have had a few changes in staff, but continue to see 35-40 terminally ill, home care patients at any one time with regular visits planned on the basis of the patient/family's need. Something really exciting (for me at least) happened this past week. At our bereavement support group one young man, whose wife (36) died about 3 weeks ago, asked if he might plant a tree in our yard, as a memorial to his wife. I was elated, and the idea of the "Grace Hospice Memorial Garden" was born that afternoon. Next week I will plant flower seeds in that garden with the help of some volunteers and leave a space for our first tree. The idea of the "garden" coming from a bereaved family member was what was so important and encouraging to me.

If you haven't received any mail from me in a year, you probably don't know that I will be traveling around the U.S. starting in early August. After four months of "Home Assignment" I, hopefully, will return to Mongolia.

Finally, a prayer request has been made in each letter for the last few months. Our Mongolian treasurer for the UMC Mission in Mongolia has a life threatening blood disease, and so I am asking everyone I can to pray for Batkhuu. He is 32 years old, has two children and a wife, and is a good Christian witness. Please pray for him and his family. He is like the "glue" in our mission in Mongolia! Or, as I sometimes say: 'my right hand man.' AND, especially my good friend.

*Dear Melissa and QUMC Children,*

*As you can see, your cards were a bit delayed so I'm slow in replying. Please note my newest address. I'm hoping to meet you this August on my way from Georgia to New York and will contact your church soon about a possible date.*

*Thank you children for sending your handmade cards of thanks to me. Hope we can meet this August and I can share some experiences I've had here in Mongolia with you.*

*P.S. June 1st is Children's Day here in Mongolia. Do you celebrate Children's Day?*

Peace,  
Helen