



Quakertown United Methodist Church

**1875 Freier Road
Quakertown, PA 18951
215.536.4992**

Visit our website at www.qumc.com

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

September 2009



Are you familiar with the many opportunities for ministry, outreach, fellowship, and Christian growth offered through your church?

One way to find out all about them is to come to the Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 13. Booths with information about our varied programs will be set up throughout the narthex. Visit them before or after any of the worship services or Sunday School time. Learn how your church is carrying out its stated mission to “Share Christ, Grow in Christ, Serve Christ.”

Our commissions and committees welcome new ideas and additions to their ranks. Pray about where God may be calling you to use the gifts God has given you.

Displays will be set up Friday evening, September 11, so that people of the community, along with QUMC members, can catch a glimpse of a vital church in action when they come to the chicken barbecue Saturday, September 12.

See you at the fair!

Sunday, September 13, 10:00 a.m., is the “kick-off” hour for a new Sunday School year. Everyone will assemble in the sanctuary to meet their Sunday School teachers, move to their classes (for some it will be their new class), and have a great time together. If you haven’t been a part of Sunday School this will be the ideal time to get on board.

Nancy's Nook



Here it is September already! Where does the summer go? I've been at QUMC for two months already! I have been getting to know people, getting settled in my home and office, learning the traditions of the congregation, finding out what the needs and wants of the people are, and learning how to serve the Lord at QUMC.

To me September is also a second chance at a new year, a new beginning. Getting ready for school gives me a chance to have clean new notebooks and binders, new pencils and pens, new books, and a new outlook on life. But wait! I am not going back to school this year and I have no children in school any more. So what does it mean? September does bring a "new" year to our church life - the beginning of a new Sunday School year, a new youth group year, a new choir year - many new beginnings.

So where am I going with all this? This second chance at a "new year" reminds me of the "second chance" that God gives us. The rainbow that we see after a cleansing rain reminds us of the second chance that God gave humans through Noah after the flood. But with God, it doesn't need to be September. God gives us a second, and a third, and a fourth ("seventy times seven") chance because God loves us with unfailing, unflinching, and unconditional love. And God tells us to do the same - "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another..." John 13:34. That's the crux of Christian community. That's the heart of the QUMC family! That's the "I love you!" See you in church!

Peace,

Report on Annual Conference



In June I had the opportunity to attend the 223rd Annual Conference Session of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. This was my first time attending annual conference as our church's lay member. I will be honest, I had no idea what to expect. I was concerned that this would be an utterly uneventful and boring few days as I watched and listened as our conference voted on amendments and resolutions. But God had much grander plans. What I found here was a rejuvenation of lives for the work of the church. Rather than just being a denominational "rah-rah" session, I found in this gathering of faithfully committed followers of Jesus that not only were we able to worship with each other, we were called to

...continued on page 11



Just For Kicks ! ! !

“Without solitude, it is virtually impossible to lead a spiritual life.” –Henri Nouwen

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, and simplicity; this month we’ll consider the discipline of solitude.

As Richard Foster writes in Celebration of Discipline, solitude is inward attentiveness. We seek out solitary and silent places so that we can be inwardly attentive to the voice of the Spirit. Without silence there can be no solitude, and as we can probably all attest to, silence is hard. Foster contends that one reason “we can hardly bear to remain silent is that it makes us feel so helpless. We are so accustomed to relying upon words to manage and control others. If we are silent, who will take control? God will take control, but we will never let him take control until we trust him. Silence is intimately related to trust.”

In solitude, we learn to trust God and die to ourselves. To paraphrase Foster: At first we may think solitude is a way to recharge our batteries in order to enter life’s many competitions with new vigor and strength. In time, however, we will find that solitude does not give us power to win the rat race; on the contrary, it teaches us to ignore the struggle altogether. Slowly, we will find ourselves letting go of our inner compulsions to win and our frantic effort to attain. In the stillness, our false, busy selves will be unmasked and seen for the imposters they truly are.

Through solitude, we are liberated from others and ourselves so that our ears become open to hear and our eyes unveiled to see the goodness of God. Through solitude, we are free to love God with our full selves because we do not have to love the world. Through solitude, an open inner space is created through which God finds us. Through solitude, we are able to turn from the idols of the marketplace to the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

One happy by-product of becoming the friend of God through solitude is an increased compassion for others. Once we have peered into the abyss of our own vanity, we can never again look at the struggles of others in condescending superiority. Once we have faced the demons of our own despair in our aloneness, we can never again pass off lightly the quiet depression and sad aloneness of those we meet. We become one with all who hurt and are afraid. We are free to give them the greatest gift we possess—the gift of ourselves.

However, as Foster writes, it is one thing to talk piously about “the solitude of the heart,” but if that does not somehow work its way into our experience, then we have missed the point of the Disciplines. It is not enough to say, “Well, I am most certainly in possession of inner solitude and silence; there is nothing that I need to do.” All those who have come into the living silences have done certain things, have ordered their lives in a particular way so as to receive this peace that surpasses all understanding. If we are to stay in love with God, we must pass beyond the theoretical into life situations.



To that end, what are some steps into solitude? The first thing we can do is to take advantage of the “little solitudes” that fill our day. Consider the solitude of those early morning moments in bed before the family awakens. Think of the solitude of a morning cup of coffee before beginning the work of the day. There is the solitude of bumper-to-bumper traffic during rush hour. Instead of vocal prayer before a meal, consider inviting everyone to join in a few moments of gathered silence.

These tiny snatches of time are often lost to us. They can and should be redeemed. They are times for inner quiet, for reorienting our lives like a compass needle. They are little moments that help us to be genuinely present where we are. Like Jesus, we must go away from people so that we can be truly present when we are with people. As Thomas Merton observes, “It is in deep solitude that I find the gentleness with which I can truly love my brothers. The more solitary I am the more affection I have for them...Solitude and silence teach me to love my brothers for what they are, not for what they say.”

So let me encourage you this month to explore the discipline of solitude. Richard Foster ends his chapter on solitude with these words: “Don’t you feel a tug, a yearning to sink down into the silence and solitude of God? Don’t you long for something more? Doesn’t every breath crave a deeper, fuller exposure to his Presence? It is the discipline of solitude that will open that door. You are welcome to come in and listen to God’s speech in his wondrous, terrible, gentle, loving, all-embracing silence.”

May we all experience the wondrous, terrible, gentle, loving, all-embracing silence, love, mercy, grace, compassion, and hope of our Lord in the weeks and months and years ahead.



Christian Ed News In Appreciation...

Many thanks to these individuals who gave of their time and talents this summer by teaching and assisting with our Summer Sunday School program. Children’s programming was supported by Paula Lapinski, Mary Jo Vogel, Heather Gossler, Jane Korpics, Bill Tomlinson, Melissa Tomlinson, Brad Leight, Dylan Gossler, Babs Kerns, Christine Sterner, Ally Sterner, Roberta Rogers, Becky Besch, and Hannah Swearingen. Adult classes were led by Mary Schwer, Laura Lillie, Dave Jamison, and various substitutes.

We thank these teachers for their tireless support.

We Need...

Sunday School Teachers and Assistants for the upcoming fall term. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your faith through the Christian Education program. Contact Tammy Swearingen at 215.538.7513 or trswearingen@verizon.net for more information.



SERMON SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

(reading the text for Sunday's service can enhance your worship experience)

September 6: Labor Day Sunday - 14th Sunday after Pentecost - Communion

Text: Genesis 2:15, Luke 10:7, Revelation 2:2-3

Title: The Value of Work

Theme: "Everyone who has been faithful, sincere and just in his employment and work in the world is received in heaven by the angels.." (Divine Wisdom XI:4)

September 13: 15th Sunday after Pentecost - Rally Day

Text: Luke 2:41-52

Title: The Most Important Hour in the Whole Week

Theme: Our faith is experienced, shared, examined, and developed in the opportunities we have for Christian education in the church.

September 20: 16th Sunday after Pentecost - Festival Sunday

Text: Psalm 1

Title: Either/Or

Theme: A joyful "yes" of commitment stands strong against the "no" of ever-changing circumstance that assails it.

September 27: 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Mark 9:38-50

Title: Truth and Grace

Theme: Jesus places our lives within the context of ultimate judgment, but within the assurance of presence and love.



**Blessing of the Animals
Liturgy and Service
Saturday, October 10, 2009**

10:00 a.m.

**Quakertown United Methodist Church
(side yard)**

**Bring your pet for a blessing to celebrate St. Francis Day.
Please bring all pets on leashes or, if you prefer, a carrier.
Water will be provided.**



Sammy

The Church Mouse

Monday mornings life gets a tad tedious here by the organ. So I sneak into the church office for some serious on-line conversation with my fellow church mice. No, I'm not worried I'll be caught.

Last week I got into an e-conversation with Cousin Minnie. Minnie tells me that her pastor has some interesting rituals. At the end of the day - every day - he plops down in his favorite chair, turns on the tube, and watches the evening news. Always the same programming. Always the same news team. After all these years, they're like family.

The pattern is always the same, Minnie says. Night after night Pastor Tom plunks down in the same chair and presses "3" on the remote. He watches the same team and learns about the latest news, weather, and sports - in that order. It's an anchor in what can be a fairly chaotic existence. Maybe he had to deal with a sudden death in the congregation. Or maybe out of the blue somebody just chewed his ear off about this or that. But here's something dependable, something familiar.

He likes the predictability of the nightly news. He gets a little bit of everything. He could watch an all-news or all-weather or all-sports news program, but he prefers the diversified approach. It makes him feel like he's up on stuff.

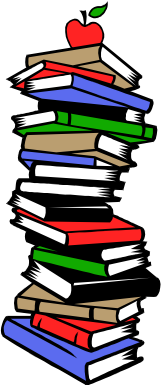
Sounds a lot like what goes on here in QUMC, my church, during worship, I told Minnie. The nightly news follows a predictable pattern of news, weather, and sports - in that order. Same goes for worship. A familiar order allows us to focus on what we're doing instead of constantly figuring out what we're supposed to be doing next. If we've had a rough week, we don't need more chaos on Sunday morning. Too much change could easily throw us off track. We'd be so busy scrambling for our bulletins to look for what comes next, we wouldn't have a clue about what we're doing right now.

Minnie's pastor never gets bored watching the same news team night after night. He likes it! He gets to know them. Just like in worship. People expect to see their own pastors. A little variety is fine, of course. After all, the news team interviews lots of different people. Getting different people involved in leading prayer and offering music is great. But we prefer that familiar face behind the pulpit. It makes all the difference when we know someone really cares about us because she was there when we were laid up in the hospital. I say go ahead and use a variety of gifts using a variety of people. But change for the sake of change? In the parlance of Pastor Tom's weather guy: Forgedaboutit!

Seems worshipers prefer a reliable pattern and people with whom they have developed some kind of connection. But they don't want to hear the same sermon week after week. They don't want to hear the preacher ride the same old hobbyhorse. And they don't want to always sing the same songs. That would be as boring as cheese for breakfast, cheese for lunch, and cheese for supper.

Minnie summed it all up pretty well. We always want the same differently and we want the different samely. But all that is too hard for this mouse to think about. Maybe Minnie wants to dwell on it, but you won't hear another peep out of me.

Love,
Sammy



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.

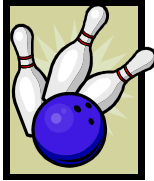


Missionary at QUMC



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.

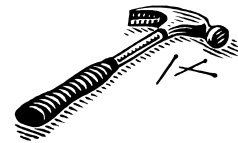
More from Helen can be found on page 12 of this newsletter.



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.

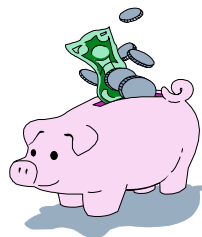
YWAM DR/DTS Unit #3027
 Attention: Molly Jamison
 3170 Airmans Drive
 Fort Pierce, FL 34946

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.

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.

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