



# 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

Summer 2009

## Who — and What's — New?



As we hope everyone — with the possible exception of Rip Van Winkle — knows by now, the “who” that’s new at QUMC is the Reverend Nancy Ross, the pastor appointed by Bishop Peggy Johnson to shepherd our church, as of July 1, 2009. We welcome her and her husband, Jack Ross, and their dog Waldo.

Pastor Ross will begin her ministry in the pulpit at the three regularly scheduled services on Sunday, July 5. Her “official” welcoming will be at a single worship service at **10:00** on July 12. Sunday School for the classes that are continuing throughout the summer will be at 9:00 on that Sunday. A reception for the Rosses in Miller Hall will follow the 10:00 service.

**REMINDER:** There will be no Sunday School classes on July 5.

The “what's new” will unfold as Pastor Ross exercises her own gifts and graces. As she notes in her first newsletter page, which she calls “Nancy’s Nook,” change is not always easy, but it can be a good experience if we all work together for the sake of the church and God’s glory.

Also new is a heretofore unknown denizen of QUMC, “The Church Mouse,” who is delighted to introduce himself:



Hi, I'm Sammy (short for Samuel.) I am a church mouse and I live at Quakertown United Methodist Church. You probably have never seen me, but I've been here, scooting around at worship, at meetings, at get-togethers. I like to share what I have learned around the church, so every so often I'll send a note to the newsletter. (I hear that QUMC is getting a new pastor! And it's a woman! I can't wait to see her — I just hope I don't scare her...if she sees me!) I hope that you have a wonderful summer, but don't forget to go to church wherever you are!



# Nancy's Nook



As I sit at my computer to write this note, my life is full of chaos! But it is with great joy and excitement that Jack and I finish packing up our “stuff,” get ready to move, and anticipate our ministry at Quakertown United Methodist Church. (Waldo is supervising!) However, by the time you read this, I should be settling in our new home and my new office. I will have met some of you and will be looking forward to meeting more of you. We have so much to share with one another.

The folks here at Clifton UMC are talking about change and how difficult it can be — and I am sure that there is similar discussion at Quakertown UMC. Change is not easy for anyone, and it is my desire that we work together through this transitional time for the sake of Christ’s church and the glory of God. But change can be, and is, a good experience. Just think of the change that happened to the world when in the little town of Bethlehem a baby was born. Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection changed the world as nothing ever had before or since! As we continue to grow in our faith, we too, are changed. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52: *“Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”*

You are probably asking some of the same questions that Jack and I are asking: What are they like? What do they believe? Will she (oh no, a “she!”) try to change anything and everything? All of us have been given gifts and have been called by God to use these gifts in service to God and our neighbor. Though we have many gifts, we are one spirit through Jesus Christ.

One of my favorite hymns is “The Hymn of Promise,” which says in the second verse: “From the past will come the future; what it holds is mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.” Together we remember the past, serve in the present, and look toward the future.

I pray that as we change in the Lord together, we will share the Good News together to all whom we meet. May it be that “they will know us by our love” and then come and join us at Quakertown UMC in love, mission, and grace.

May you have a blessed and safe Fourth of July! See you in church!

Blessings and love,



# Just For Kicks ! ! !

*“Simplicity is freedom. Duplicity is bondage. Simplicity brings joy and balance. Duplicity brings anxiety and fear. The preacher of Ecclesiastes observes that ‘God made man simple; man’s complex problems are of his own devising.’” –Richard Foster*

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

As Richard Foster writes in Celebration of Discipline, simplicity liberates us from the bondage of duplicity. When we live lives of simplicity, speech becomes truthful and honest; the lust for status and position is gone because we no longer need status and position; we cease from showy extravagance not on the grounds of being unable to afford it, but on the grounds of principle; our goods become available to others; we join the experience of Richard E. Byrd, who writes, “I am learning...that a man can live profoundly without masses of things.” Foster offers the following suggestions for individuals seeking to reorient their lives around simplicity:

**Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status.**

*Stop trying to impress people with your things and impress them with your life.*

**Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you.**

*If anything has a grip on your heart, give it away. Simplicity is about freedom, not slavery. Refuse to be a slave to anything but God.*

**Develop a habit of giving things away.**

*If you find you are becoming attached to some possession, consider giving it to someone who needs it...Most of us could get rid of half our possessions without any serious sacrifice.*

**Learn to enjoy things without owning them.**

*Owning things is an obsession in our culture. If we own it, we feel we can control it; and if we control it, we feel it will give us more pleasure. That idea is an illusion.*

**Develop a deeper appreciation for the creation.**

*Walk whenever you can. Listen to the birds. Enjoy the texture of grass and leaves. Smell the flowers. Marvel in the rich colors everywhere.*

**Obey Jesus’ instructions about plain, honest speech.**

*Make honesty and integrity the distinguishing characteristics of your speech. Reject jargon and abstract speculation whose purpose is to obscure and impress rather than illuminate and inform.*

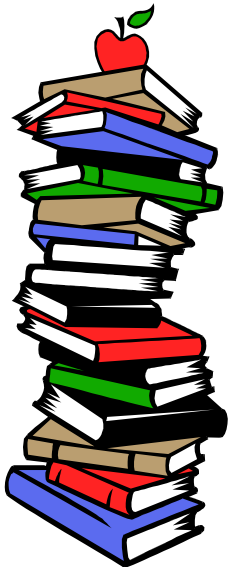
**Reject anything that breeds the oppression of others.**

*This is one of the most difficult and sensitive issues for us to face, but face it we must...In a world of limited resources, does our lust for wealth mean the poverty of others?*

**Shun anything that distracts you from seeking first the kingdom of God.**

*It is so easy to lose focus in pursuit of legitimate, even good things. Job, position, status, family, friends, security—these and many more can all too quickly become the center of attention.*

As Foster concludes, “May God give you—and me—the courage, the wisdom, the strength always to hold the kingdom of God as the number one priority of our lives. To do so is to live in simplicity.” May it be so in your life and in the life of our community!



## What are you reading this summer?

The church has a library full of books for fun, education, theology, devotion....Please take advantage of them.

The pastor also has a large library of books she will loan out. She also has a number of copies of *The Message of Hope* by Eugene Peterson. It is a very small book but well worth reading. The blurb on the back of the books says: "Maybe you've found the things you've pursued and dreamed of - car, education, family, job - but feel empty, disappointed, still wanting more. Or perhaps you're frustrated with all the struggles and setbacks you've encountered in life. Regardless of your situation, there is good news...God offers eternal hope, an aspiration that runs deeper than any other...Come discover for yourself what God has to offer. In a world where it is natural to feel discouraged and unsatisfied, you will find great comfort in God's message of hope."

Another book the pastor recommends is *When God Whispers Your Name*, by Max Lucado. This is a series of small essays that really hit you "where you live." "Quite a thought, isn't it? Your name on God's lips. Perhaps you have never seen your name honored. And you can't remember when you heard it spoken with kindness...Listen as you turn the pages. You can hear the Father...whispering your name...erasing your doubts, your sorrow, your despair."

Happy Reading!

## Well Done!



Thank you to members of the Youth Group for planning and carrying out a very fine Youth Sunday service on June 7. Molly Jamison challenged us with a thought-provoking message on our mutual brokenness.

Let us all continue to encourage all of our youth and children and pray that they will be open and obedient to God's leading in their lives.



## Thank You

Much appreciation to all those who served as planners, teachers, and helpers as QUMC held another meaningful Vacation Bible School. This has always been a significant avenue of outreach to the community. Those who made it possible willingly gave a great deal of time and effort to make VBS a successful ministry.



## More Thanks



A positive response to the call for volunteers has ensured the continuation of QUMC's Chicken Barbecue. Thank you to those who stepped up. The barbecue is scheduled for Saturday, September 12.



## Soup Labels

To those who bring in Campbell's Soup labels, which QUMC sends to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky: Please turn in only the bar code from the label, not the whole label. This will save time in the preparation by Missions Commission for mailing the labels to Red Bird. Thanks!

## Missionary Update from Emily Jamison



Dear QUMC Family,

I want to give you an update on my preparations for my missionary work in the Dominican Republic. I am now registered for missionary training in Colorado in August, but I can't proceed any farther until I have 90% of my support. Right now I am at 62% - thank you to those of you who have already supported me! I still need your help - please consider supporting me with a monthly pledge or one-time gift. God has been faithful so far and I know he will continue to provide. I look forward to talking with you and I will keep you updated. You can reach me at 215.538.2950 or [emily.jamison@my.wheaton.edu](mailto:emily.jamison@my.wheaton.edu).

Thank you, Emily Jamison



## Attention All Ladies

Scripture Sisters will be reading the book *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch over the summer. We will meet the weeks of August 12, 19, and 26 to discuss what we have read. Sign up in the narthex. Contact Janet Finch by e-mail ([jmfumw@aol.com](mailto:jmfumw@aol.com)) with any questions.



## Christian Ed News Summer Sunday School Schedule



July 5:	No classes
July 12:	Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
July 19 through August 30:	Classes at regular time - 10:00 a.m.
September 6 (Labor Day weekend):	No classes
September 13:	Rally Day

1. Coffee & Conversation Class on hiatus - will resume on Rally Day, September 13.
2. Other adult classes will continue as usual.
3. Youth aged 13 and older are invited to assist in the children's classes or to attend an adult class.
4. Children's classes as follows:  
Up to age 4 - Meet together in Toddler Nursery  
Ages 5 to 12 - Meet together in Room 110



## Update on "Our" Boy of Sudan

QUMC first met Isaiah Deng in October 2003. He is one of the so-called "Lost Boys of Sudan," who had to flee for their lives from their home villages in Sudan.

Many of our members helped Isaiah by transporting him to doctor and dentist appointments, and to and from school and work. In addition, others helped him by tutoring, assisting him in filling out applications, teaching him to drive, and providing temporary housing.

Isaiah graduated from Faith Christian School. He attended Bucks County Community College, transferring to Chestnut Hill College, from which he expects to graduate in 2010 with a degree in Criminal Justice. He works full time at Hatfield Meats.

Isaiah's goal is to become a United States citizen, but is unable to afford the \$735 required. QUMC's Missions Commission has given Isaiah \$300 from the sale of meatball sandwiches. United Methodist Women has donated \$100. If anyone would like to help close the remaining \$335 gap, please contact Ed or Carol Pertuit (610.346.6713).



## Faith Preschool Completes Successful School Year

A QUMC mission to the community for seven years, Faith Preschool has concluded one of its most successful school years to date. Faith offers a high quality early education experience in a Christian context for up to 70 students annually.

Enrollment for September is very strong with a total of 66 students already registered for its four classes. As of mid-June, four slots only remain: Monday-Wednesday-Friday PM class for four-year-olds.

Experienced preschool educators Beth Mininger (head teacher) and Colleen O'Connor (teacher) are ably assisted by Lisa Gibat and Karen Godown. Diana Whittaker continues as Office Manager.

Faith Preschool works cooperatively with Parents Time Out, the quality QUMC mission for younger children. Many PTO families continue their children with Faith, valuing the continuity and warm church atmosphere. Over these years several Faith Preschool families have become QUMC church members.

During the present school year Faith Preschool completed its \$10,000 mortgage reduction pledge and gifted the church with an automated external defibrillator (AED) which can be utilized in an emergency on adults or children alike. More information is forthcoming during these summer months about the installation of the AED and orientation to its use.

Faith Preschool has partnered with PTO and the church to upgrade the playground equipment, renew the playground mulch, and replace the deteriorated swing set for use by all.

Most importantly, over the course of seven years, hundreds of children have moved on to kindergarten well prepared, their young lives enriched by their Faith Preschool experience, a testimony to the foresight of church leaders who championed the addition of an educational wing for just such missions.

Faith Preschool board members are Chris Aber, Susan Lennon, Teddi Miller, Bonnie Mitchell (parent representative), Cristin Pizzi, Melodie Schmouder, Jeff Stover, and Janice and Jim Newcomer (co-chairpersons).

### Church Financial Report



2009 Actual Income To Date - \$125,976.86

2009 Budgeted Income - \$143,618.50

**2009 Amount Under Budget - \$17,641.64**



## Mortgage-Free in Three

The above is the theme chosen for what it was hoped would be the final three-year campaign to retire the mortgage on our Christian Education Wing.

Please review the latest report on the mortgage which can be found on page 9 of this newsletter.

Each month the payment owed is \$7,800. As you can see in the report, offerings to the Christian Ed Wing Fund have fallen short of that amount seven of the last 12 months. Unless offerings improve, not only will we fail to realize our goal to be mortgage free, but also the shrinking cash balance will be exhausted.

To those who made commitments to the Christian Ed Fund, thank you. Please continue to keep your gifts current. To the majority of our members, who have not committed to this fund, please consider seriously helping us to reach the goal. Surely everyone agrees that Christian education is a vital component of Christian growth and discipleship. Children, youth, and adults all benefit from our excellent facility, which enables our dedicated teachers and helpers to carry out an effective Christian Ed program. Please do your part!

## Quakertown United Methodist Church Building Security Policy



The following procedures are to be followed by anyone in possession of a key to the church.

1. The church key is not to be given to any other person without prior notice and approval by the Board of Trustees.
2. It is the responsibility of each chairperson/group leader to assure the building is secured at the end of every night when meetings or activities are held. This requires the walking of the interior perimeter to confirm each door is closed properly and locked. This also includes checking that all interior lights are turned off.
3. At no time should any of the kitchen, Parlor foyer area (front/rear) or the Sunday School Wing doors be unlocked with the key. These doors may be propped open for a short period while a function is in process, but must be closed again before the instructor leaves. This also complies with the Safe Sanctuary policy.
4. The outside doors to Miller Hall may be unlocked by key when deemed necessary, but must be properly locked again by event leaders, at the end of the activity.
5. The church facility should never, without exception, be left unlocked and unattended. Under no circumstance will this be tolerated. The last person out of the building must be responsible for the security of the building.
6. If at any time the building is found to be unlocked and unattended, the Trustees will be required to notify the last person responsible for locking up. If this person neglected to follow this procedure, a documented warning will be given. If this breach of security by the same person occurs more than once, the Board of Trustees reserves the right to have the key removed from this person's possession.



**QUAKERTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Annual Building Fund Report**  
**June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009**

Mortgage Balance: May 31, 2008 \$265,691.01

Cash Balance: May 31, 2008 \$6,828.35

Receipts:

June-08	\$ 7,936.00
July-08	\$ 6,998.00
August-08	\$ 5,984.00
September-08	\$ 8,898.00
October-08	\$ 6,887.56
November-08	\$ 13,060.00
December-08	\$ 8,943.00
January-09	\$ 6,061.00
February-09	\$ 6,759.00
March-09	\$ 7,784.00
April-09	\$ 5,373.00
May-09	<u>\$ 6,055.00</u>

Total Income: June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009 \$ 90,738.56

Total Funds Available \$ 97,566.91

Outgo:

12 Mortgage Payments @ \$7,800.00	\$ 93,600.00
Safe Deposit Box Rental	\$ 69.00

Total Outgo \$ 93,669.00

Cash Balance: May 31, 2009 \$3,897.91

Mortgage Balance: May 31, 2009 \$188,200.91



# Family Matters



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Catherine Molnar - July 8; Dorothy Williams - July 10; Mary Stahr - August 15; Nancy Krown - August 28.

**BAPTISM:** On June 21 - Dylan Michael Lehr, born March 31, to Michael and Lisa.

**IN MEMORIAM:** Jean Scharer - June 11.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our graduates:

From QCHS -

Kyra Ames -  
Emily Bancroft -

Marian R. Afflerbach Memorial Scholarship  
Vice-President of Class; Highest Honor Student; Class of 1992 Scholarship;  
Quakertown Community Education Association Award

Dillon Fischer  
Molly Jamison -

Highest Honor Student; Dr. George E. Taylor Award; Music Department  
Vocal Award; QCSHS Departmental Award - AP Statistics; QCSHS  
Departmental Award - AP U.S. Government and Politics; Quakertown  
Music Promoters Organization Spirit Award; Quakertown P.A.G.E.  
Scholarship; V.F.W. Mathematics Award

Lauren Metzger-McCabe - Guidance Office Service Award

From Upper Perkiomen HS - Aaron Zepp

From Drew Seminary - Natalie Finch, Master of Divinity

From Wheaton College - Emily Jamison, Bachelor of Music in Collaborative Piano

**APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE!** for QUMC's Milford Middle School students who appeared in Milford's production of "Beauty and the Beast": Alyssa Freed, Amanda Hafler, Leah Kaighn, Cassie Lapinski, Jen Sterner, Anisha Wilson.

**LETTER OF APPRECIATION:**

*"Our hearts and souls are filled with gratitude for the many expressions of farewell and blessing that we received from members of the congregation at our "send off." Thanks to all who contributed to the financial gift, all who submitted letters and pictures to our memory album, and all who shared tears, hugs, and well-wishes. QUMC will forever be a part of our lives. Pray for us as we begin our work at Hopeland UMC as we will continue to hold you in our prayers. May you continually Share Christ, Grow in Christ and Serve Christ!"*

*With blessings, David & Jeanette Ryan*