



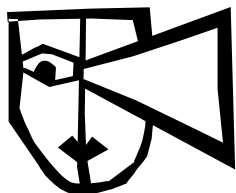
Quakertown United Methodist Church

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

Visit our website at www.qumc.com

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

January 2010



Focus in 2010

***“If we focus on our differences, our focus is on each other.
If we focus on unity, our focus is on God.”***

Where will our focus be in 2010? As the above quotation from that famous author, Anonymous, reminds us: our focus as a church must be on God. Our mission statement makes clear that we purpose to share, serve, and grow in Christ. That is best accomplished in an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual love and respect.

Several months ago, when the church was struggling with working out the worship schedule, we committed to “unity in Christ, our mission, and our commitment to live out our calling together.” We joined in the following affirmation:

We confess that we are brothers and sisters in Christ
Called to be His body, in service to one another and to the world.
We affirm our unity in Christ this day.
We affirm the gift of worshipping God
At different times and in different ways.
All worship that honors God and glorifies Him is good.
Our unity in Christ is not based on our all being together at one time
Or all worshipping God with the same forms.
Our unity is based first in Christ himself,
And in our covenant to live as his disciples in faithful community.
Our unity as a congregation is based on our
Common commitment to
Share Christ, Grow in Christ and Serve Christ
May God’s blessing be upon our congregation.
May His blessings be upon our leadership.
We give God thanks for one another and
Pledge from this day forward to live in unity
With one another as the Holy Spirit enables us.

Focus on differences leads to detours and derailments; focus on unity smooths the pathway.

“How good and pleasant it is when (we) live together in unity.” — Psalm 133:1

Nancy's Nook



I trust that you had a most blessed Christmas, and that Christ was indeed the center of your celebrations. Jack and I (and Waldo, too) would like to thank all of you for your many cards and gifts during this joyous season. If I haven't thanked you personally, please do not feel offended. The number of cards and gifts has been overwhelming. May God bless you, even as you have blessed us!

With the end of our Christmas celebrations comes the New Year, 2010. New Year's Eve and day has a way of making us reflect on the issue of time, both past and future. Each of us comes to the New Year with expectations in one form or another. Some of us have had such a burdensome 2009 that we just know 2010 must be better. Some of us look back on 2009 as a good year, as a time of wonderful opportunities and blessings; we would like to think that 2010 will be a continuation of the same. And there are some of us who see challenges and problems coming toward us in the New Year, and we wonder how we will ever be able to handle them.

If we are women and men of faith we assume that the future is always in God's hands. This doesn't mean that all future events are determined by our heavenly Father, but it does mean that God is intimately involved with all that is to be. As this concerns our own life, and the way we face the challenges and problems and good things that lie ahead, we should all feel a sense of assurance.

Matthew 6:25-34 and Luke 12:22-31 all say through the angels, "Don't be afraid!" God will take care of every need, giving you all that is necessary. Just strive first for the kingdom of God. Strive to do God's will and live continually in his presence. Just make living a Christ-like life the most important thing in your life. All other needs will be tended to by God.

So, whatever comes your way in 2010, no matter how taxing and demanding, no matter how difficult and seemingly impossible to handle: don't be afraid. Leave your worries in God's hands. God is very close to you, especially during such moments, to resolve all things according to your good. Just seek God's Kingdom. Make it the most important goal of your life. And God will tend to the rest. Jack and I wish you a very blessed New Year!

Peace,



Just For Kicks !!!

Think for a moment about goals. We often use the New Year as a catalyst to set new goals (or recommit ourselves to old ones), with the purpose of self-improvement. This is a good and valuable thing; I've even used this space to share with you some of my goals at the beginning of the past few years.

This year, however, I want to do something similar but different. We've talked recently about what Jesus calls *the more important matters*: justice, mercy, and faithfulness. Since Jesus says these are the more important matters, it would probably be wise to incorporate these themes into the types of goals we set for ourselves. This month, let's focus on the first of those issues—justice—and consider eight Biblical goals of justice and eight corresponding modern goals of justice (as set by international consensus).

What Biblical Justice Is	What Modern Justice Might Look Like
<p>1. Caring for the poor. <i>"Speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."</i> - Proverbs 31:8-9</p>	<p>1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Reduce by half the proportion of the 1.2 billion people living on less than \$1/day by encouraging micro-loans and by helping poor people everywhere access jobs that pay a living wage.</p>
<p>2. Education of Young. <i>"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it."</i> -Proverbs 22:6</p>	<p>2. Achieve availability of primary education for all children by building schools, supplying school fees and supplies, and encouraging governments to support education initiatives through their budgets.</p>
<p>3. Gender Equality. <i>"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."</i> -Galatians 3:28</p>	<p>3. Promote gender equality and empower women to achieve their full potential, especially through literacy, small business training, and community organizing efforts</p>
<p>4. Care for the Unborn and Very Young. <i>"The king said, 'When you help give birth, if it is a boy, kill him' ...The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live."</i> -Exodus 1:17</p>	<p>4. Reduce child mortality and abortion rates. Work to reduce infant and under-five mortality rates through immunizations and nutrition; reduce abortion rates by working to lower instances of unwanted pregnancies.</p>
<p>5. Just and Honorable Treatment of Parents. <i>"Honor your father and mother so that you may live long in the land..."</i> - Exodus 20:12</p>	<p>5. Improve maternal health by reducing maternal mortality ratios by three-quarters through basic health care for mothers.</p>
<p>6. Equal Opportunity for an Abundant Life. <i>"I will heal my people and let them enjoy abundant life and security."</i> -Jeremiah 33:6</p>	<p>6. Combat preventable diseases by providing basic health care, education, clean water, and sanitation to every human being</p>
<p>7. Care for the Environment. <i>Psalm 8:6-8; Genesis 1:28</i></p>	<p>7. Ensure environmental sustainability through practices that serve and protect the creation.</p>
<p>8. Legal and Social Justice for All. <i>Administer true justice; show mercy & compassion to one another. Do not oppress [anyone]."</i> -Zech 7:9</p>	<p>8. Ensure governments' stability through legal measures that support people's basic rights and freedoms.</p>

Now we obviously can't all work to achieve total success in all eight of these areas, but let me encourage you to pick one or two of the justice goals that most resonate with you and commit yourself this year to doing what you can to help raise awareness and advocate for justice in that area. I think we'll find it refreshing to set goals that improve not just our own lives, but the lives of our brothers and sisters as well.

This year, may you be an advocate of justice.

This year, may you be a giver of mercy.

This year, may you be an example of faithfulness.

This year, may you be committed to the more important matters.



Sammy the Church Mouse

Wow! The people of QUMC certainly kept me busy, running from one event to another, from one special service to another, watching gifts being given to families in need and much, much, more during the Advent and Christmas seasons!! I need January to rest!

Because I am a mouse, I can sneak into so many places and see what is going on - be careful not to step on me! I hope the sense of joy, excitement, and love will continue all year. Watching all the decorations go up was so much fun. (I bet you didn't see me up in the real high branches of the tree, did you?) I especially liked all the extra lights - it will be sad to see them come down, but I think you all will remember that Christ came into the world to bring light into this darkened world and that HE shines 24/7/365!

Thanks for all the crumbs from the good food served throughout the season. QUMC has some wonderful cooks and bakers. I have to eat fast, though, because Dan the sexton does a great job of cleaning up the church quickly. Barb, the church office manager (I hear she has that new title), gives me joy in hearing the tap, tap, tap on her keyboard, or the way she answers the phone. She keeps me running with her efficiency. Now, the music I hear from QUMC's organist and choir director, Bill (and the early service organist, Mary), is something else! I have a special place in the sanctuary where I can sit, listen, and not be seen. I bet we have the best organists in the area!! Then there is the handsome young man, Josh. I think he is the assistant pastor. Everyone sure seems to like him. He always has food in his office, so I sneak in there but it's always wrapped up! Drat! It looks so good.

I am so glad to be QUMC's special church mouse. I hope that you will say thanks to your wonderful staff as this new year begins. Happy New Year, everyone!

Do You Know?



1. There are large print hymnals and Bibles available for use on Sunday morning? Just ask an usher.
2. There are devotional booklets and tracts available on the magazine rack in the narthex?
3. There are youth booklets available on the youth room magazine rack?
4. There are wonderful books to borrow and read in the church library?
5. There are resources for study, Sunday School, youth groups and adult small groups available to borrow from the library (and Pastor Nancy has others to loan)?
6. There are cassette tapes and videotapes available to borrow from the church library?
7. There are some children's videotapes available to borrow from the church library?

Well, now you know! Happy New Year!

P.S. Is anyone interested in starting a reading group? See Pastor Nancy if you are!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



Families of the Bible

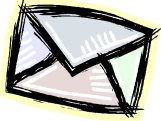
Join with other adults of the church for a new Sunday School class. "From Adam to Jesus: A Study of Selected Biblical Families" will begin on Sunday, January 17. Led by Gail Schadler, this class will meet in the conference room, just outside of Pastor Nancy's office. For more information, contact Gail at 215.541.9570.

Men's Bible Study



The Tuesday morning Men's Bible Study is off to a strong start! Meeting at 6:30 a.m. at the church, this group is presently using Men of Integrity, a booklet that can be found on the counter in the narthex. Men of the church are encouraged to pick up a copy of this booklet and join in for this early-morning time of study and reflection. Contact Jack Ross (215.529.1494) for all the details.





Reminders About Your Church Envelopes

The envelopes for the new year include one marked “Initial Offering.” This helps to offset the cost of the envelopes.

Please note that there are two separate funds listed on the envelopes. The first, “General Fund,” supports the budget of the church, which cares for everything excepting the mortgage on the Christian Education Wing, which is the second line on the envelopes. To help those who count the offerings, as well as to ensure that the record of your giving is accurate and your wishes carried out, **it is important to designate to which fund you want your gift to go by filling in the appropriate amount of each line.**

There is a third line: “Other (specify)” — This provides for any special instructions for your offering. You may, for instance, use this line for a gift to the church’s **Acts Four Fund**. This fund provides for assistance to church members who, through no fault of their own, are experiencing financial difficulties. The fund is administered through the pastor and a committee, who make an assessment of the needs. Strict confidentiality is, of course, observed.

If you wish to contribute to this fund, or to any other purpose not covered by the General Fund or Christian Education Wing Fund, be sure to specify on the line provided.

If you have any questions about, or want more information on, any of the above; Mary Schwer, stewardship chair; the chair of finance; or Pastor Ross will be glad to help you.

Thanks, Thanks, and More Thanks!



A big “thank you” to Carrie Schiavino and Laura Clymer for creating the beautiful new angel costumes for the Jubilee Singers Christmas Pageant. We appreciate their sharing of their time and talent, the fruits of which will be enjoyed for many years to come!

To all who gave the 160+ gifts for the children of Kensington Area Ministries (KAM), an inner-city Philadelphia ministry. QUMC has been helping in this way for many years, and the gifts are very much appreciated. For many of these children, it is the only Christmas gift they receive.

QUMC members responded generously to October’s ecumenical CROP Walk by sponsoring walkers to the tune of \$1,559. CROP Walk proceeds help to relieve hunger and the issues that contribute to poverty.

Another ecumenical ministry to which QUMC members responded is the Blankets Program. Church World Service, which administers the program, sent QUMC a banner and 2009 patch in recognition of the generous donation of \$636. This program distributes blankets and other services to homeless, displaced persons, refugees, and those impacted by war and natural disasters.

Missions Commission received notes of thanks from Allentown Rescue Mission and from Jerusalem House, two inner-city Allentown ministries to which donations from the commission and from individual church members have been received with much appreciation.

Quakertown Food Pantry also thanked the congregation “for the very generous donation of \$1,000.” The pantry also expressed appreciation for QUMC’s pantry volunteers.



Quakertown Cares Campaign

This campaign was founded in 1995 by The Free Press, Quakertown National Bank, and the Quakertown Community School District. The Bucks County Herald is now the newspaper sponsor. More than \$400,000 has been collected in tax-deductible donations over the years. Every dollar has been distributed to our neighbors in need. There are no administrative expenses in this volunteer effort.

Contributions may be dropped off at any QNB branch or be mailed to this address: Quakertown Cares
QNB
P.O. Box 9005
Quakertown, PA 18951

Please consider becoming “angels” for your neighbors in need.

Churches may recommend potential recipients in need: veterans, senior citizens, and families with children who reside locally as our neighbors.

For additional information, contact Dr. James Newcomer at 215.536.8578.

Our Doors Are Always Open!



While being an “open door” church is wonderful news, having the church left open after activities can lead to many safety and security issues.

Please be sure that when leaving the building, all entrance doors are pulled closed and latched. This is especially important for those who are locking up and are the last to leave the premises.

Thank you for your cooperation in this effort to keep the building safe and secure.



Let It Snow?

PLEASE NOTE: Just a reminder that Sunday morning services are NOT cancelled because of inclement weather! If it is not safe for you to travel or you can't get out of your house, please do not jeopardize your health and safety. Spend the time at home, safe and warm, reading your Bible, listening to good music, in prayer, or whatever. We'll see you the next week!



Got Mail?

We are always working to improve our communication with the congregation of QUMC. One way we're trying to do that is via e-mail. We are compiling a QUMC e-mail list, to be used from time to time (not for junk mail!) to send out special announcements, to provide information on activities, and to get the word out about other church-related opportunities. If you have an e-mail address, please add it to the "E-Mail List Sign-Up Sheet," which can be found at the Welcome Center. Or you can just shoot an e-mail to either Pastor Nancy or Josh. Thanks for your cooperation in this effort!

Toy Drive for Red Bird Mission



Red Bird Mission is a conference of the United Methodist Church located in the hills of Kentucky in poverty-stricken Appalachia. During the month of January bring in to the church used toys, games, and books in good condition. With your children having received many new gifts for Christmas, encourage them to sort through items they would be willing to share with less fortunate children. This can be a valuable learning experience in sharing, caring, and good stewardship.



Friendship Facts

The Friendship Circle is a group of hard-working and generous ladies of the church. In 2009, this active group made the following donations to help fund activities and programs of QUMC:

\$2,000.00 - General Fund
 \$500.00 - Car Repair for Josh Meyer
 \$250.00 - Jerusalem House
 \$125.00 - Toys for Tots Luncheon
 \$125.00 - Gift Certificates for Church Staff
 \$60.00 - Poinsettias for Shut-In Members

Total Donations: \$3,060.00

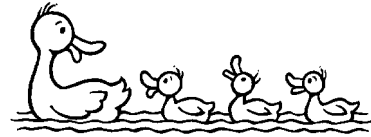
A \$3,400.00 profit was realized from the Fall Rummage Sale.

In addition, Friendship Circle will help pay for the new outside sign when it is installed.

Many thanks to the members of Friendship Circle for their continued dedication and support to the mission and ministry of QUMC!



Family Matters



LETTERS OF APPRECIATION:

To QUMC Missions Committee, from Emily Jamison:

“Thank you for supporting my work with Kids Alive in the Dominican Republic! I am blessed to have the support of the church as I serve here. My time so far has been wonderful and full of growing and learning and seeing God in new ways! Thank you for joining me in bringing education and love to the children of Caraballo!”

-God bless, Emily

“Thank you to my church family for the birthday cards sent in honor of my 90th birthday. I appreciate your thoughtfulness in remembering my special day.

I am presently rehabilitating at the Phoebe home and hope to return to Independence Court as soon as possible.

Best wishes for a happy new year.”

-Lillian Harte

To the Children - Grades 1-3:

“Dear Morgan, Jenny, Jordan, Alexis, Gracie, Nate, Mitch, Gavin, Lauren, Emily, Ethan, Owen, Madison, Morgan, Matt & Ann,

May the true meaning of Christmas fill your heart and remain forever with you.

Thank you for the Christmas card you sent to us. It made us very happy. Merry Christmas!”

-Jerry & Marie Frankenfield

“Dear Children,

Thank you so very much for visiting and singing for me on Sunday evening. All of you were so sweet. I’m sorry it was such a miserable night. I wish all of you would have come into the living room. I can only stand for about 3 minutes, so I had to hurry and sit down. Thank you for the lovely little Christmas gift. I will enjoy the music for years to come.

All of you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.”

-Love to all, Mrs. Armstrong

Church Financial Report



2009 Actual Income (Year End) - \$268,731.06
2009 Budgeted Income (Year End) - \$298,726.48
2009 Amount Under Budget (Year End) - \$29,995.42



Time Out Talk



Parent's Time Out offers an early Christian learning experience for 2- and 3-year olds. Currently in its ninth year, this program has ministered to hundreds of children and their families in the Quakertown community and beyond. Classes are offered three mornings a week. Daily activities include free play, crafts, Bible story, circle time, music, snack and gym. December was an exciting time as the children learned the Christmas story, made gifts for their families, and had a birthday party for Jesus. Look for our snowmen in January! A few spaces are still available for the current year. Registration for September 2010 will begin in January. For more information contact the Parent's Time Out teachers at 215.538.2950 or 215.538.1305.

Come to our Open House on Saturday, January 23, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. to learn more about this program.



Registrations for fall 2010/2011 are being accepted for current families of Faith Preschool, Parent's Time Out, and members of QUMC on January 11, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Registration will be open to additional friends and neighbors beginning January 12, 2010.

Open House
Faith Preschool and Parent's Time Out
January 23, 2010
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
(Snowdate: January 30)

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