



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

June 2010

QUMC Needs A Good Soaking !!



Think of how your lawn looks after a good soaking rain. Lush and green. Healthy and growing.

Soaking a church in prayer makes it healthy, too!

Followers of Christ should, by definition, be people of prayer. Our daily prayers should include lifting our church up to the throne of God.

Recently Stewardship Commission sponsored a prayer vigil. A number of the 43 persons who came to the church to pray suggested that the Guidance for Prayer handout might be of value to all of us. We hope it will be helpful as you saturate QUMC in prayer.

Excerpts from Guidance for Prayer

Spend time praising and thanking God: for who He is; for the wonders of God's creation; for God's mercy and grace; for Jesus, your savior; for forgiving your sins; for the Bible; for our church.

Spend time praying for yourself: Ask God to reveal areas in your life not surrendered to Him. Ask God to remove all resentment, anger, selfishness, unforgiveness, judgmentalism, and any other attitudes impeding your walk with Christ. Ask God to grow the fruits of the Spirit in your life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Gal. 5)

Pray for our church: Ask God how you can further our mission to "Share Christ, Grow in Christ, Serve Christ." Pray for God to reveal ways you can be a peacemaker, an encourager, a fearless witness for Christ, a speaker of truth in love. Lift up as many members and friends of the church as you can think of and pray for their physical and spiritual well-being. Pray that any members and friends who have not yet accepted Jesus as savior and Lord will make that life-giving decision. Pray that, as members of Christ's body, all of us will be united in our love of the Lord and the church and in our determination to discern God's will and to obey it. (See Romans 12:5 and Ephesians 4:3.) Ask God to help you to evaluate how well you are keeping the promises you made when you joined QUMC: to support it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service; and to do all in your power to strengthen its ministries. Pray for our pastors that they will have a clear vision of their ministry, strength for the tasks they discern God calling them to, patience and forbearance as they minister among people with differing needs, expectations, and levels of commitment.

Spend time picturing yourself sitting at the feet of Jesus. Quietly and earnestly listen for God's voice.



Nancy's Nook



What a wonderful month June is! It is a time of graduations and weddings (and in the Ross family, a lot of birthdays). School is ending. Baseball is in full swing (please pardon the unintentional pun!). The pools are full; vacations are eagerly anticipated.

It is a wonderful time of year. The days are getting longer (the longest day is this month), spring flowers are gone and the summer flowers are getting ready to blossom. Our church garden is a blessing as it begins to show the new growth that will turn into a harvest. It has been said that a seed catalog is evidence that hope springs eternal. As Christians, we know better than that - it is the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter that is the source of our hope. But hope that is not acted upon quickly becomes hope that is lost. The remedy is an easy one: plant a spiritual garden! Here are some directions to help you plant a fruitful harvest - in this life and the next.

Plant a Spiritual Garden

Plant three rows of peas:

Peas of mind
Peas of heart
Peas of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be happy
Lettuce really love one another

No garden should be without turnips:

Turnip for service when needed
Turnip to help one another
Turnip the music and dance

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

Thyme for God
Thyme for fun
Thyme for rest
Thyme for ourselves

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There will be much fruit in your garden, because you reap what you sow (Galatians 6:7).

Peace,



A Challenge from the Pastor . . .



This month Pastor Nancy has a challenge for the people of Quakertown United Methodist Church. During the “lazy” days of summer, she challenges young and old alike to stop for a while and read the Gospel of Luke (in the New Testament part of the Bible) just as the new confirmands did with their mentors. You might even find a partner with whom to read the Gospel and share thoughts about it. Grandpop, share some lemonade with your granddaughter while you read together. Nana, sit on a swing with your grandson while you read. Mom and Dad, read a chapter at dinner - it is a good way to get the whole family together to eat!

For those who decide to do this, you can receive a complimentary copy of the Gospel of Luke published by the American Bible Society. Just let Pastor Nancy know that you have accepted the challenge.

If anyone who takes this challenge is interested in a follow-up Bible study on what you read, let Pastor Nancy know and she will be glad to set one up.

May you be blessed by your reading!



Sammy the Church Mouse

The other day I overheard a conversation. A few people were discussing their vacation plans - to go away to the shore, or to visit family out West, or to stay home beside their pool. My ears really perked up when I heard one person say, “I like summer because I can sleep late on Sunday. I don’t have to go to church!”

O, how I wanted to interrupt that conversation! I wanted to ask why this person didn't feel he needed to go to church in the summertime. Is God on vacation, too? Where would God go? Does the work of the church take a sabbatical for the summer months? Do the expenses of the church stop for the months of June, July, and August? Are there no places of worship at the shore or in the West?

I didn’t interrupt that conversation, but I wanted to tell those folks that the people at QUMC would never stay away from church just because it’s summer or they are on vacation, or they want to sleep late...Would you?

P.S. Don’t forget to take one of the teddy bears at the Welcome Center with you and pass it on to the church you visit while on vacation.



June Worship

June 6 - Second Sunday after Pentecost - Communion

Text: Matthew 28:18-20
Title: The Power of Vision (first in a series of three on vision)
Theme: What is vision: Is it Biblical? Where does QUMC fit in?
Theme Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision" - #451 - verse 1

June 13 - Third Sunday after Pentecost - Honor Graduates

Text: Proverbs 29:18
Title: The Necessity of a Real Vision (second in a series of three on vision)
Theme Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision" - #451 - verse 1

June 20 - Father's Day

Text: Genesis 21:8-21
Title: "If We Had Known Then What We Know Now"

June 27

Title: The Promise of the Vision (third in a series of three on vision)
Theme Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision" - #451 - verse 1

Traveling Teddy



Are you a child/youth between the ages of 5 and 18? Are you going on vacation this year? Would you like to join the "Traveling Teddy Bear Club?"

Here's what you do:

1. Let Pastor Nancy know where and when you are going on vacation.
2. Pastor Nancy will give you a small teddy bear and some postcards.
3. When you go to church at your vacation spot, you will find another child/youth about your age and give the teddy bear and postcards to him/her.
4. That child/youth will fill out the postcard with their name, address, church, and age and mail it back to QUMC.
5. That child will then take the teddy bear on vacation with them and do the same thing.
6. We will display the postcards in the church to see where our teddy bears have been.



Just For Kicks !!!

The book of Proverbs is classified as *wisdom literature*, and in its pages we find a wellspring of wisdom. Simply defined, wisdom is the ability to make good decisions. Throughout the book of Proverbs, we find a robust picture of wisdom and the person who possesses it. We're in the midst of the process of fleshing out a picture of **The Wise Person According to Proverbs** in the form of an outline. For me, the logical flow and ordering of outlines help me process and connect with information. I hope this format is helpful for some of you as well.

The Bible often uses the word "man" to mean human rather than male. This outline will follow that pattern, so while we'll use the words *he* and *his*, these principle and characteristics are intended to apply to each of us. The past two months we looked at the character of the wise man and the relationships of the wise man; this month we'll explore the power, character, and source of the words of the wise man.

The Wise Person According to Proverbs, continued.

III. HIS WORDS

A. He Realizes the Power of his Words

1. Their power
 - a. Of life and death (12:6; 15:4; 18:21)
 - b. To heal or to wound (11:9; 12:18)
2. Their limitation
 - a. No substitute for deeds (14:23)
 - b. Cannot alter the facts (26:23-26)
3. They are calm, not emotional
 - a. Rational (15:28; 17:27)
 - b. Gentle and peaceable (15:1; 15:18)
 - c. Yet Persuasive (25:15)
4. They are apt, not untimely (15:23; 25:11)

B. The Character of His Words

1. They are honest, not false (12:22)
2. They are few, not many (10:19)
 - a. Not boastful (27:2)
 - b. Not argumentative (17:14)
 - c. He is not a gossip
 - i. Doesn't reveal secrets (11:13; 20:19)
 - ii. Doesn't spread slander (10:18)

C. The Source of His Words

1. His heart/character (4:23 with Mt 12:33-35)
 - a. Positively, he is righteous (10:11)
 - b. Negatively, he is not
 - i. Proud (13:10)
 - ii. Hateful (26:28)
2. His companions (13:20; 27:17)
3. Reflections (15:28)

The goal here isn't to make us feel guilty for who we're not, but to challenge each of us to do what Scripture teaches: "to attain wisdom, discipline, and understanding; to acquire a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair" (Proverbs 1:2-3). May we read these outlines not merely for information, but for transformation. As we ask hard questions about our character, our relationships, and our words, may we be convicted of our sin and convinced of His grace, His mercy, and His desire and power to transform us into the people we were created to be.



More Alphabet "Soup"



In the April edition of the newsletter the "mystery" of SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee) was unraveled. This month, COM will be explained.

The letters stand for Council On Ministries. The council is comprised of representatives of the various commissions and committees, plus at-large members and several other individuals. COM meets on the third Monday of the month eight times a year: in January, February, April, May, July, August, October, November.

Typically, one or two of the church's ministries report on their activities, plans, and objectives. Council members ask questions, offer suggestions, express appreciation and encouragement. Each reporting commission, committee, or ministry focus highlights how the ministry advances the church's mission to "Share Christ, Grow in Christ, Serve Christ." Periodically, COM sponsors a "Mission Fair," to help church members learn about the ministries of QUMC, and to enlist their support and ideas.

Anyone is free to attend COM meetings and to advance ideas/proposals. Recently, Babs Kerns contacted COM's chair, Brad Leight, to present an idea for a program to increase inter-personal contact and friendship/fellowship among QUMC's members. It is sometimes difficult to get to know folks in a church the size of ours. Watch for more information on the "shepherding" concept being explored as a result of Babs's initiative. The summer (July/August) newsletter will contain more information.

Also at the May COM meeting, the council was "wowed" by the exciting report on QUMC's Youth Group. Assistant Pastor Josh, along with lay youth leaders Pam McGovern, Sarah Craig, Lindsey Mease, and Debbie Umstead are doing a wonderful ministry with the youth. Youth meet Sunday evenings, with the Youth Praise Band leading worship. Planning of activities, a meaningful lesson, games, and snacks usually round out the two-hour sessions. Average number attending is 25 to 30 teenagers.

Some of the ways the Youth Group serves Christ and others opened the eyes of COM members and challenged them to evaluate their own service: a student mission weekend in Philadelphia, participation in the 30-Hour Famine, volunteering at the local Food Pantry, holding a babysitting day in December to free up parents for Christmas shopping and other holiday preparations.

Growing in Christ comes through annual retreats, weekly lessons led by Pastor Josh, and attendance at the Revelation Generation Concert.

Youth have been sharing Christ through outreach at the Quakertown Skate park, participation in "See You at the Pole" at their schools, witnessing during their weekend in Philadelphia, bringing friends with them to Youth Group meetings and activities.

As you can see, just three letters - COM - make a lotta good "soup"!



Music To Our Ears

Thanks for a wonderful Music Sunday on April 25 to all the signers, ringers, instrumentalists that lifted us, moved us, blessed us: Dr. Bill Feigley, organist extraordinaire and choir director; Becky Witt, director of the bell choirs; Babs Kerns, director of the Youth Choir; Cynthia and Dave Jamison, leaders of the Jubilee Singers (Dave also coordinates the Living Water Praise Band); and all of their "troops." It was a great day!



Pastors Want Your Input !

Here's your chance! Pastors Nancy and Josh plan to preach in July and August on the topics you suggest. Pray and think about this. A receptacle to receive your suggestions is located just outside the sanctuary in the narthex. They will do their best to use your suggestions.

New Directories



By the time you receive this newsletter the updated Church Directories should be available. They are five dollars each. See Liz Cole for more information.

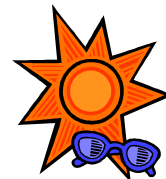


Good Job !

Congratulations to Confirmation Class of 2010, whose members officially joined QUMC on Pentecost Sunday, May 23: Andrea Aber, Matthew Cornelius, Isabella Fuscillaro, Amanda Hafler, Joshua Korpics, Hayley Metzger, Emily Odle, Jennifer Sterner, Emily Sullivan, William Tascarella, Nicole Umstead.

The confirmands planned and carried out the outstanding 11:00 worship service on that day. Many thanks and appreciation to them, along with their mentors and parents and the pastors.

Summer Sunday School



Regular Sunday School classes will continue through June 20. Summer Sunday School will run from July 11 through August 29. Adult classes usually continue on their usual schedule throughout the summer, although some may choose to take a hiatus. Each adult class will make their own determination. Watch the worship bulletin inserts for more information.



Vacation Bible School



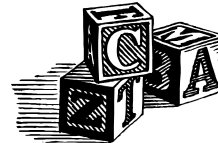
Sharon Vietmeier and her teachers and helpers are geared up and ready for an exciting VBS. Dates are Sunday, June 27, through Thursday, July 1, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This ministry is beneficial not only to our own children and young people, but is a significant means of community outreach. The theme is “Gadget’s Garage.” Sounds like fun!



How Does Your Garden Grow?

With the weather warming up, the QUMC garden is ramping up! Thanks to those who have already volunteered. Please watch your e-mail for status updates and requests for help. If you have not responded previously, but would still like to be a part of this project, contact Marj Lofland (imaginativekhan@comcast.net) or Brad Leight (leightfam@hughes.net or 215.679.7637) for more information.

Faith Preschool



Faith Preschool offers quality preschool education in a nurturing Christian environment. Certified, experienced staff members nurture positive relationships in God’s world through a variety of educational resources, encouraging parental involvement in classroom activities, and developing community experiences.

Classes for three- and four-year-olds with morning and afternoon sessions are offered with a few spaces still available in the afternoon for three-year-olds. You may request to be placed on a waiting list for morning classes for three-year-olds and all classes for four-year-olds as they are fully enrolled at this time.

Registration forms are available in this newsletter. For more information call Faith Preschool of QUMC at 215.536.8172.



Time Out Talk

Parent’s Time Out ended the school year with a unit on Creation. The children learned that God made the world and everything in it and pronounced it “Good!” They made flowers, butterflies, birds, and even jellyfish.

The theme for the three-day mini camp held in May was “All Things Bright and Beautiful.” Bible stories included Joseph and his coat, Noah’s Ark, and Jonah. The 14 children who attended the mini-camp enjoyed fun projects: sand art, tie-dyeing, rock painting, and visor decorating.

Registrations are being accepted for the 2010/2011 school year. If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling a child please see the flyer included in this newsletter.



Inner Thoughts from Outer Mongolia

Hopefulness filled my soul this month as we have had lots of encouragement in many ways in the form of financial support, with some coming from the GBGM office in New York, and some directly from a couple of church congregations. The “prayer warriors” from the KUMC of San Diego visited here with encouragement for patients and their families, our mission centers, GBGM missionary staff, as well as church members and Grace Hospice patients. We give thanks for all God has given us through the generous UMC/KUMC members. We know that He is not far away, because we have experienced His presence through many people who have tangibly shared His love with us.

Grace Hospice:

We are evaluating the quality of care in Grace Hospice. So, we have initiated a questionnaire to be completed by the patients’ families after the patient’s death. This is helping us to know more clearly our strengths and weaknesses in service, so that we can make changes accordingly.

We have hired a spiritual care counselor, who will not only help patients, but also our staff, who need more spiritual counseling themselves. Also, we are trying to recruit a young doctor to work with the present team of one doctor, three nurses, a spiritual care counselor, and a pharmacist.

Finding new staff is difficult as we need someone with the right heart for hospice care. We can’t settle for less than someone who is convicted by the need to give excellent care to home care patients who are near the end of their lives.

Finally, we are seeking to raise funds for Grace Hospice from inside the Mongolian population. The families we are serving are beginning to realize their part in supporting hospice services, and we are thankful for each gift we receive.

All of these changes in Grace Hospice we hope will help us move in the right direction for better care of patients, more satisfaction for the staff, and will keep our program alive, as we are always needing funds just to survive.

Other Activities:

Cell Group:

The weekly cell group/Bible study which I lead is growing with 10 people coming regularly now. The participants are ages 22-60 and the joy of meeting with these people, usually women, is great. We completed our last study book, celebrated Holy Week with a Seder meal, and now are studying the Gospel According to Luke with special emphasis on “healing.”

I am so happy to see many more activities - yoga, wool felt projects, English class, Senior Citizens gatherings for Bible study and fellowship, keyboard lessons, youth gathering just for fun inside and enthusiastically playing basketball outside. With our congregation “hibernating” during the very long winter, the return of life in the spring is wonderful.



Senior Citizens Fellowship:

Now there are three Senior Citizen groups with whom we work - at three different UMC locations. Tomorrow there will be a singing contest with four groups gathering to compete. Before Easter the Senior Citizens made tissue paper butterflies and it looked like a butterfly factory as they made many to hang from the ceiling of the Sanctuary for Easter Day worship.

Sunday School:

The little children, ages 4-7, are just a joy to be with on Sunday mornings. We were down to only a couple of children during the winter, but now are bouncing back, and our class had 10-15 children the last two weeks. For me it is really a joy, as our mission intern, Holli Vining, is working with this group too and is training a young Mongolian woman to teach the class. It is like a double joy - our children, and this new young woman, a dedicated teacher.

Prayer Requests:

1. That we can get the needed funds to survive and even some day, again, talk about growth in Hospice and the other programs.
2. Batkhoo, our accountant, has had to terminate his employment and give up driving, but he is doing better in many ways. He is still a real pivotal person in our Mongolian Mission.
3. Urjee will be leaving for four years of seminary in Singapore. She then will return to Mongolia to pastor a UMC congregation.

Financial Status:

If you wish to send a donation, 100% of it will be sent to Grace Hospice if you write "GBGM Advance #14928A" on it. If you wish to make a donation for the express purpose of maintaining the three churches and two mission centers and their programs, make your donation out to: GBGM Advance #00209A Mongolia Mission Initiative. Although we are still anything but solvent, we were blessed by money from the Detroit KUMC, San Diego KUMC, and from the GBGM New York office. What a blessing! We do believe in prayer and also ask for your prayerful support of this mission. We give thanks for all of the donations we have received to continue God's work here in Mongolia under the UMC.

Until next letter, peace to you,
Helen

Helen Sheperd, CPO Box 1242, Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia
helensheperd@yahoo.com

QUMC helps to support this missionary through the United Methodist Church's
General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM).



Welcome Summer !



Important Dates To Remember

Deadline for the Summer Edition of the newsletter is June 15. Please put all information that you want included for July and August into Mary Schwer's mail slot in the office. Every month activities that should be included in the newsletter are not there because the editor is not given the information. The purpose of the newsletter is to communicate - please help us to do a good job of communicating.

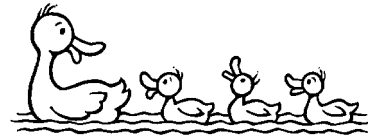
Deadline for the September issue is August 15.

This Just In...



The Friendship Circle is a generous and hard-working group of ladies. Recently, they made a donation of \$1,500 to the general fund, along with a donation of \$150 to the Milford Square Homeless Shelter. Way to go!

Family Matters



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Catherine Molnar - July 8, Dorothy Williams - July 10, Mary Stahr - August 15, Nancy Krown— August 28.

BAPTIZED on May 23: Ellie Mae Beattie, daughter of Brian & Stacey. Ellie was born on September 17, 2009.

NOTE OF THANKS:

"I would like to thank you for the prayers for my daughter, Brenda. The operation was successful and she is doing well. Thank you for your love and concern."

Bill Dietz

Church Financial Report



2010 Actual Income - \$107,887.79
 2010 Budgeted Income - \$121,261.50
 2010 Amount Under Budget - \$13,373.71