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OUR CHURCH MATTERS

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Trusting God – For Possibilities

Most of us don't want to be stupid, foolish, or gullible. We trust facts and reasonableness and cash-on-the-barrel-head. So sometimes when it comes to the spiritual side of life we are not very well equipped to understand or accept the mysteries and the unfathomable ways of God. Years ago, in response to the beginnings of a service for prayer and healing (healing of mind, body, spirit and relationships), someone who had grown up in a parsonage family told me that prayer was just talking to yourself! I am sure that sometimes the experience of prayer "feels" like talking to oneself. As finite human beings we cannot nail down an infinite God. We cannot tell God what to do. Sometimes we blame God for the things in life for which we have no explanation. This is especially true of situations we don't like or which are painful, or cause suffering and hardship.

The people whose faith is recorded in the pages of scripture discovered again and again that people cannot live only by human knowledge, facts, reasonableness, money, power, position or anything else that we tend to trust more than God. Abraham and Sarah hosted three strangers. The visitors left a message from God with those retirees. Within the year, Abraham and Sarah gave birth to a son, Isaac, whom God had promised many years before. The parting words of the visitors were: *"Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son." (Genesis 18:14)* In response to some of Jesus'' teachings, his disciples would exclaim, *"Then who has any chance at all?" Jesus looked hard at them and said, "No chance at all if you think you can pull it off yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it."* (Message Bible) or to hear the words of Jesus in the NIV translation, *"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."* (Matthew 19:26)

So…we have a God who makes things possible that are impossible for us. Nothing is too difficult for God. As I have gotten older I see this truth in many more ways than I did in the first decade of ministry. I have had people of faith share their near death experiences with me - both positive and frightening. I have witnessed and experienced healing prayer. I have seen people totally transformed by faith in Jesus Christ. I have seen God provide in seemingly miraculous ways. Pastor Dick shared his "chance" meeting at the Grand Old Opry in Nashville with a former co-worker of twenty years ago. The man had in his words "found Jesus," recently sold a business for $65,000,000 and was helping youth in his community in Pennsylvania. He agreed to give a large donation to The Spot after school program. Isn't that God working the "impossible" with his possibilities?!! How can we say that God doesn't answer our prayers for what God wants to do among us?

In the spring of 2003, Dennis and I attended a preaching conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where our oldest daughter was living. She and her husband had decided to move closer to home and she was looking for a Director of Music job in Northern Virginia. Her husband had already secured a teaching position at an elementary school in Fairfax County. A job possibility for Julianne had not panned out. During the conference I was standing in line at the restroom during a break. I was talking to the pastor ahead of me. She shared that she was from Northern Virginia and her congregation was looking for a Director of Music. When I told her that Julianne had a Masters in Sacred Music and was looking for a position, she asked to meet her before she left Atlanta. They met the next day. An interview time was set up for the following week with their search committee, and the day after the interview she was hired. The elementary school that had hired her husband two weeks before was less than a mile down the road from the church. Does God not provide and in unexpected ways?!!

Because I have seen God at work over and over again in the lives of so many people, I know that God has plans, purposes, possibilities and provisions for us. I am excited about our ministry together. I am hopeful even in challenging economic times. I see good leaders doing good work. I see people making sacrifices. I see prayers being answered. I see long hoped for goals becoming a reality (like our Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, for example). I see new people joining us because we have invited them to be a part of our faith community. I see us doing more mission ministry locally. We step out in faith. Take the plunge. Follow where God leads. Strive to be open to new and different experiences because God is not in a rut. God is always on the move. We just have to be willing to keep up. God has provided and made things possible in the past. God is still a God of provision and possibilities for the years just ahead!

Pastor Carol

September Special Birthdays And Anniversaries

Mary Jane and Stewart Reed, 61st anniversary on September 6th, 3400 Halcyon Road, Stevenson, MD 21153

Thelma Lockard, 90 on September 14th, 211 East Chatsworth Avenue, Reisterstown, MD 21136

Ann and Ed Garman, 60th anniversary on September 18th, 1000 Weller Circle, #115, Westminster, MD 21158

Dorothy Luckett, 90 on September 19th, 1649 Shadow Court, Dunwoody, GA 30338

Fran Koenig, 90 on September 22nd, 205 St. Mark Way, #227, Westminster, MD 21158

LaRue Allewalt, 82 on September 22nd, 2525 Pot Spring Road, Apt #@436, Timonium, MD 21093

Please remember these church family members with a card or a phone call.

Thank You!

You church members made my birthday a big happy one! All the cards, flowers, money, gifts and food, then a pool party with 40 family members - it looked like a community pool party. So nice to have all that family together! God is good; I count my blessings every day. Thank you all. Love, *Isabell Nester*

New Addresses!

Alan and Stacey Vokrot-Mello
20390 Summerville Road
Deephaven, MN 55331

Burton and Sally Lee
3700 South Westport Avenue #1867
Sioux Falls, SD 57106-6360

Boscov's Coupons:

Old Line Statesmen Barbershop Chorus members are **selling coupons** for Boscov's annual Friends Helping Friends event to take place **Tuesday, October 7.**

Area non-profits sell the $5 coupons and keep the money. In exchange, purchasers can get **up to 25% savings** on many items at Boscov's and, drop off their name, address and phone info (part of the coupon) to take a chance on winning a flat-screen TV and other prizes like a shopping spree at the store. For more information, call *Jim Botelle at 410-526-6842.*

Praise & Worship Music:

In the fall of 2008, we will begin our 19th year of using intuition, imagination and creativity to infuse the worship service with inspiring music to the Glory of God. The objective is to allow the music to be alive in the moment and for you as a congregation to respond and interact with the message.

My thanks to Steve and his extraordinary gifts and to the Chancel Singers who have learned to communicate so well the Grace of our Savior. We continue this musical blessing beginning with the **Chancel Singers on September 21, 2008**, and will present a cantata, "There is Peace in the World Tonight", at the 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Plan now to attend. *Bill Myers, Director of Music Ministry*

OUR CHURCH MATTERS

NEWSLETTER OF REISTERSTOWN UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

PASTORS

REV. CAROL C. YOCUM

REV. DICK HARDEN

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Office Manager, Jan Porter

Submissions for the *October Newsletter* are due by **Sunday, September 21st, 10:00 am.** Please e-mail articles to rumcoffice@rumcweb.org

UMW News: Did you know. . .?

- How ***excited*** we are that our Helen Berryman Scholarship was awarded to such a worthy candidate, **Rachel Humphrey**.
- How ***proud*** we are of Circle of Friends and all of their helpers for another successful Consignment Sale.
- How ***grateful*** we are for the ladies who helped clean and organize our kitchen this summer.
- How ***happy*** we are to congratulate Pastor Carol for completing her treatments and for being a role model for us.
- How ***honored*** we are to recognize **Hazel Mays** for her many years of service to the Board of Child Care. We donated a leaf to hang on their Tree of Life. Congratulations, Hazel!
- How ***anxious*** we are to have several ladies participate in the Reading Program
- How ***pleased*** as punch we are that 33 sewing kits were sent to UMCOR
- How ***tickled*** pink we are that the FFFM and Circle of Friends had articles printed in the District newsletter, "Eye-Opener"

Thanks to all who help make our programs and activities a reality!

Book Club:

The September meeting of Book Club will be on **September 23rd at 7:00 pm in our library**. ***(Note change of date.)*** Be ready to laugh as we share our responses to John Grisham's comic novel, Playing for Pizza. A player for the Cleveland Browns is cut after the worst single performance in NFL history. His agent finds him a position in Italy for the Parma Panthers. He gets involved in a series of Italian entanglements and misadventures. Join us.

Ladies, Mark Your Calendars For These Important UMW Dates:

- September 4, 2008, 7:00 p.m. - meeting, Library
- September 6, 2008 - Mini School of Missions, Pleasant Grove UMC
- September 14, 2008 - Reading Program deadline
- October 2, 2008, 7:00 pm - Combined meeting, Northside Chapel, Judy Smitely performing "Noah's Wife"
- October 15, 2008 - last Food Service Training class for the year, St. Michael Lutheran Church, 9534 Belair Road, Nottingham, MD 21236, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Pick up application form in the Narthex.
- October 18, 2008 - Baltimore West District Annual Meeting (location TBA)
- October 23, 2008 - host Glyndon Women's Club dinner

From the Shelves:

There's a new Barbara Kingsolver book in our church library. It's not one of her novels. It's something totally different. Animal, Vegetable, Miracle is the non-fiction account of Kingsolver's and her family's decision to eat only "local" food for a year. "Local" food means anything that they can grow themselves on their Virginia farm or buy at the nearby farmers' market. Kingsolver's husband and oldest daughter also contribute essays, and the book features family recipes. Would you believe that there's a chocolate chip cookie recipe that calls for zucchini? It's worth checking out.

By the way, I'm happy to report that Kevin Clash's "My Life as a Furry, Red Monster" is now officially in our church library. You can now read all about

the man behind Elmo. It's worth checking out too. *Beth Waters*

"It's Not Supposed To Hurt"

Do you know why people turn various shades of red when our Pastor gets up on any given Sunday and talks about their stewardship – especially that part of our stewardship we call our "treasure"? Here is why.

When you go to the doctor for a routine physical exam, you are asked to take off your shirt or blouse. Once you do, the physician begins pressing and probing and poking all around your chest and back. Usually it's not a big problem - just a little ticklish or annoying. Then, all of a sudden, the doctor begins to strike out for new territory and presses on a new area of your body. Just as suddenly you flinch and blurt out, "ouch!" The physician gets a surprised look on his face, obviously puzzled by your reaction. You can see it all over his face. The doctor says, "I'm sorry, but I have to probe that area again, I promise to be careful and gentle," and begins poking and probing all over again. This time is more gently. But when the doctor hits the same area you grimace over, sure enough, once again you recoil, flinch, and let out a louder, "ouch!" The physician says, "I'm sorry I had to do that, Mr. Doe, but it is not supposed to hurt there!" That part isn't supposed to be sensitive!"

Likewise, when your Pastor speaks to you from God's word about your treasure – about the way you manage all the gifts God has given you. When the Pastor touches on returning to God a portion of what God has given you to manage and take care of, it's not supposed to be sensitive there! What might it say about us when the Pastor talks about our stewardship, and we yell, "Ouch?" YOU KNOW, JESUS SAID THAT IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO HURT THERE!

Dennis Smith, Stewardship adapted from Parish Publishing, LLC

Printer Cartridges & Old Cell Phones

Are you bringing your empty INKJET CARTRIDGES, LASER/TONERS and OLD CELL PHONES to church? Did you know we get paid for all of them to benefit our ***Local Missions*** budget? Instead of mailing them somewhere in prepaid envelopes, bring them to church.

Thank you to all who contributed, but we need more of you saving them and more pieces than ever. Even if you are not sure what is useable, bring it in. The company will ecologically dispose of any they cannot use.

The box under the "Secret Pal" table is waiting to receive all the above. Please keep them coming. There are many in our community who need help and can benefit from this program.

Beyond The Breakers…

Is the theme for **Kairos Outside Maryland #6** which is being led by Eileen Davis. Kairos Outside is a Christian support ministry for Women (20 yrs.+) who have a friend or relative who is, or was previously, incarcerated. The weekend is also for women who, themselves, were previously incarcerated. Previously incarcerated ladies must have been released at least one year before the weekend date.

Does this describe you or someone you know? If it does, we would love to have you, or her, attend one of these **free** weekends.

KO #6 will be held at the Brethren Center in New Windsor from **6:00 pm, Friday, October 31st through approximately 3:30 pm, Sunday, November 2nd.**

You may be wondering, "What in the world will I be doing for an entire weekend?" I assure you – you won't be bored! This is a time for you to set aside to take a break from your hectic, stressful lifestyle and let others take care of you for a change. You will hear the testimonies of ladies who share some of the same experiences as you. And, the weekend is full of wonderful surprises.

If you are interested in attending, ask the Church Office for a Kairos Outside Guest Reservation Form.

We are in need of men and women to **volunteer for a few hours during the weekend of October 31-November 2.** These "Angels" provide transportation for Guests or help out behind-the-scenes at the Brethren Center in New Windsor, MD. There are no meetings to attend. Angel Applications are available in the Church Office or from the Kairos Outside website http://www.marylandkairos.org/KO%20Recruit.html

Are you an Emmaus or Chrysalis teamer? Treat yourself to the awesome experience of serving on a Kairos Outside Team. You'll find it to be quite different and you will want to serve again and again!
Deby Brooking, KO of MD Advisory Council