



OUR CHURCH MATTERS

ISSUE NUMBER 1

REISTERSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2010

“Unbind Your Hearts”

The book of Genesis begins with “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” John’s Gospel uses similar words, “In the beginning was the Word. . .” Beginnings are good. They offer hope and second chances; opportunities to start over, to wipe the slate clean, to set new goals, get a fresh start are what beginnings are about. Every culture has a New Year though it doesn’t always coincide with our western calendar. God built into his created order beginnings—every year offers new possibilities and new challenges.

In order to take advantage of a new beginning, we need the help and encouragement of God’s Holy Spirit. Our human “will power” is powerless to carry us to many new places because our will power is flawed—impacted by self-centered (sinful) human nature. We want to change or start fresh, but we feel helpless. The Holy Spirit is the Helper, the Strengthener, and the One who can make our will power powerful. We follow a God for whom all things are possible and who wants for us only God’s best. Daily ask the Lord to help you seek God first with all your “heart, soul, mind and strength.”

Scientists know that people who practice a vital faith by worshipping weekly, studying Scripture, praying daily, helping others, and who have a kind and merciful disposition, are healthier in mind, body, and spirit. They live longer and cope better with life’s trials. Yet even when we know this as fact, we don’t always live it. We need to ask for the Holy Spirit’s help, and we need the support and encouragement of our faith family.

In an effort to be proactive in growing as disciples of Jesus, we are going to begin 2010 with small study groups so we can support and pray for each other. We will gather on January 10th after the 10:00 am service to meet with our small group, get our study books, share our hopes for the six weeks of studying together, and have lunch. Please bring sandwiches, salad, or dessert to share with about 8 others. Drink, table service, and soup will be provided.

People who follow Jesus do not live charmed lives. So we have to give some effort to growing. Study, prayer,

worship, generosity, service and witness are the practices that nourish our spirits and help them grow.

On the Big Snow Saturday of December 19th, Raven fans gathered with snow shovels to remove the 20 inches of snow so Sunday’s game against the Bears could be played. What dedication to a sport and team! The roads were nearly impassible but they were there in the heart of the city. The task ahead of them was huge. Time was short. The work was difficult. The snow kept falling. Yet the dedicated disciples of Ravens football were there!! Can we be as enthused about the possibilities that God is going to show us as a congregation through our winter study? Will snow, hardship, time, difficulties, or huge obstacles defeat us? May God find us pumped!!

Our January/February study is *Unbinding Your Heart*, a book about the church now and what it is facing. The book offers ways to cultivate a deeper prayer life and to identify how God is at work among us. What was the most memorable experience you have had with God in your life? Have you ever told anyone about it? Maybe God can use your unique experience to speak to the hungering spiritual needs in another person’s life. God often offers his love to others through those who love him already.

Remember the time Peter messed up by denying Jesus before he died on the cross? Peter felt he was a total failure as a disciple. But Jesus offered Peter forgiveness and had confidence in Peter. He said to Peter three times, “If you love me, feed my sheep. If you love me, feed my lambs.” Jesus wanted Peter to see his value for God’s Kingdom. You have value for God’s Kingdom and God’s work in our world in 2010. Together we can do “all things through Christ who strengthens” us.

May our New Year together as a congregation bring many of God’s blessings to others in our community.

I love you and pray for you as my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pastor Carol



Memorials



In honor of: Mary Jones' 90th birthday
For: The Crisis Center
Given by: Susy & Bill Hedrick

In honor of: Bill & Bonnie Kalbfleisch
For: RUMC Current Expenses
Given by: Shirley & Silk Murray

In honor of: Bev Lipp's dedication to RUMC Youth
For: Kitchen Stoves
Given by: Barbara Rhodes

In memory of: Bob Croxton & Jack Livermore
For: Kitchen Stoves
Given by: MOM Lunch Bunch
Cheryl Brondyke
Tom Caltrider
Mary Lou Foltz
Velvia Goodrich
Bev Lipp
Jan Montgomery
Cathy Ritter
Cindy Smith
Alida Verway
Marion Yohn

In memory of: Jack Livermore
For: Youth Ministries
Given by: Linda & Allen Fromm

In memory of: Olive Warner
For: VIM
Given by: Lois Salino
Dianne & Harvey Raitzyk
Barb & Dave Kehne
Homer Warner
Joan & Ronald Garvin
Lynn & Gary Owings
Frances & Monte Hatcher
Debby & Richard Zimmerman
Donna & Brian Garriss

In honor of: Tom & Alice Caltrider
Bev & Roger Lipp
Cathy & Tom Ritter
Kim & John Riesenfeld
For: The Lunch Bunch
Given by: Sandy & Tom Thawley



January Special Birthdays

Frances Hatcher, 86 on January 6, 326 Mary Avenue, Westminster, MD 21157

Dot Bond, 81 on January 6, 1020 Green Hill Farm Road, Reisterstown, MD 21136

Dudley Gooch, 96 on January 30, 2261 Old Westminster Road, Finksburg, MD 21048

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

RUMC HISTORY & RECORDS CORNER:

In 1966 a narrow "postage-stamp" -sized piece of property (the Bruehl Property) became available next to the church for \$45,000. A decision was made to buy the property though there was no specific use for it at the time. **At least one of our church leaders resigned his position as a result.** By 1972 RUMC was debt free, and it was decided to build a new sanctuary. It was going to cost \$250,000! The plan was put in action, and in 1974 our present Main Sanctuary, built on the \$45,000 land, was consecrated. In 1985 when the mortgage had been paid in full, it was burned, and once again RUMC was debt free.

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NEWSLETTER OF REISTERSTOWN UNITED
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Submissions for the *February Newsletter* are due by **10:00 am, Sunday, January 17th**. Please e-mail articles to rumcoffice@rumcweb.org or deposit them in the Newsletter mailbox.



Thank You!

♥ Just wanted you to know how much Mom appreciated the visit from the Church. The gift basket was so nice. She wanted me to PLEASE thank everyone involved. It meant a lot to her. Again, thanks. *Carol Bowen for Lucille Aler*

♥ Thank you for the Basket of Love from our Church Family. It was so thoughtful and we really enjoyed it. The “candle” and glass candle holder the children made is adorable. The treats were yummy and the little gifts came in handy. We feel so blessed to be thought of and prayed for by you! Thanks so much. *Deby, Bob and Bobby Brooking*

♥ A big “Thank You” to the members of all the church groups who prepared the Basket of Love that was delivered to my door. You are so thoughtful! The basket contained many small gifts – either delicious or very useful. I just love the tiny candle in a pretty glass that was a gift from the children.

I am sorry I was not at home when the basket was delivered. I would have enjoyed visiting with the messenger. My Christmas love, *Ann Garman*



From the Shelves

Agatha Christie is the grand dame of mysteries, and you can find many of her fine works in our church library.

Get to know her famous sleuths as they figure out whodunit. Belgian Hercule Poirot solves the crimes in "Murder on the Orient Express" and "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd." Spinster Miss Jane Marple puts her observations about human nature to the test in works like "A Caribbean Mystery" and "4:50 From Paddington." These books and others are available in our Mystery section and on the rack in the corner.

We also have "Passenger to Frankfurt." It's not your typical Christie novel. Instead of a murder mystery, it's a tale of espionage. It's worth checking out.

Beth Waters



Book Club:

The first 2010 Book Club selection is “*Snow Falling on Cedars*” by David Guterson, which takes place in 1954 in Washington State. All wrapped up into one award-winning novel, you will find historical fiction, murder mystery, land dispute, courtroom drama, and first love romance. Read to find out how these themes are connected to a Japanese-American conflict following World War II.

We will meet on **THURSDAY, January 21 at 7 pm in our library.** We would love to start the new year with some new readers. Please join us. It's fun!

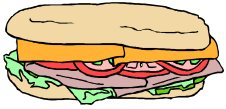


Special Prayer Shawl Blessing

After the Thanksgiving Day service, there was a special prayer shawl blessing. Twenty-three items were presented. Among them were eight lap robes which were taken by Abbie Kealy to Walter Reed Army Hospital for our wounded military personnel. This will help them realize that they are not forgotten.

Contact *Marion Yohn* at (410) 833-1982 or romayohn@aol.com if you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry in any way. You will be rewarded with the joy that comes from sharing your talents and passing on prayers and blessings to those who receive the items.

If you would like a prayer shawl for someone, please contact Marion.



SUPER BOWL SUB SALE!

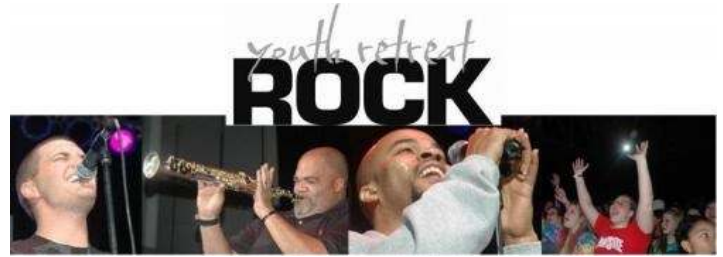
Celebrate the 2010 Super Bowl with **delicious homemade subs** from the United Methodist Women! The American cold cut subs are available in 9" for \$6.00, 12" for \$8.00 and round sub (serves 10-12) for \$30.00. They come super-loaded - just ask any of our past customers! The subs are double-wrapped and condiments are separate so they can even be used for lunches on Monday! Subs can be picked up on Saturday, February 6th between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon or on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. **Order forms will be available on the table in the Narthex in January and taken at the Fellowship Hall entrance between services on Sundays through January 31st.** If you have any questions, please call *Patti Musial* at 410-857-4484.

Join Others for 6-weeks of FELLOWSHIP & STUDY in Small Groups

Sign up in December for an all-church study beginning the week of January 10th – many times and days of the week are available. Martha Grace Reese has a practical study for congregations in the Main Line Churches titled *Unbinding Your Heart*. Reese's book tells stories about vibrant congregations who have shared their faith experiences with others in ways that have made life-changing differences. She promotes humor, whimsy and joy as ways to tell our faith stories. **Study groups will begin the week of January 10th and wrap-up on February 20-21st.** Give six study sessions with others from RUMC to better equip yourself to pray, become open to God's leading, and offer hospitality and God's story in your life.

Correction to Article in December Issue

The "Garden of Gethsemane" mural in the Northside Chapel has been there since **1930** not 1950. Thanks to those who caught the mistake.



RUMC Youth and Adults who are attending ROCK 2010:

There is a meeting on Sunday, January 10, 2010, after the 10 a.m. service in the Fellowship Hall.

Parents of youth who are attending ROCK must also attend this meeting.

Refreshments will be provided.