



OUR CHURCH MATTERS

ISSUE NUMBER 1

REISTERSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2011

Reflections from the Woods

On Christmas morning, a very light snow was falling and gently covering the woods. It was about 8A.M. and with warm coffee in my hands, I was pondering the excitement that we all experienced the night before. It had been Christmas Eve and the Parish congregations had a full night of worship. At Reisterstown UMC, the family worship service resonated with clapping and gleeful sighs and laughter as many of the children re-enacted the biblical story of the birth of Jesus. It did not matter that we had four Wise men and six stars and that the baby Jesus doll was handled rather roughly by Joseph. At Pleasant Grove UMC, the congregation warmly greeted all of the community friends who came to hear the story of Jesus told in a different way. Yes, Christmas Eve had been a long and joyful time to praise to God.

In the morning light of Christmas Day, the images of the barren winter trees that were beginning to glisten with the white covering of snow were reflected in the glass of our enclosed heated porch. This special place has been sacred for Ann and me for many years. It is here that we have listened intently to God's gentle nudging of us. Ann has set aside a quiet corner of our porch for prayer. It is a safe space with candles and a cross. It is here that Ann and I have discussed, prayed, challenged each other and reached an understanding as to how God was moving again in our lives.

It had only been a few days since all of you received a letter from me in which I was able to share with you a new sense of God's pulling Ann and me. Much has unfolded in the past several weeks and now the final steps of sharing God's new calling was in front of us. As I looked through the glass into the woods,

once again I could see God's mighty hand at work in our lives.



For many of us, we wish that God would be bold and deliberate and very directive in informing us as to the next steps in our lives.

We want to be able to see God's handwriting on the wall – giving us directions that we clearly understand and can follow. It would make life so much simpler to have God directly communicate with us in a clear and understandable language. But it does not happen like that. We have to wait and listen quietly in order to sense the direction that God wants us to take.

This is where faith comes in. Faith requires that we enter into a prayerful give and take with God as we seek to understand the direction that God wants us to go. The author of Hebrews has it correct when we read in Chapter 11:1 – *Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, and the conviction of things not seen.* It is God who opens doors for us, but we must walk through them in faith. It is when we trust God to lead us into a life of faith and adventure that the invisible handwriting on the wall becomes clear and discernable.

So it has with us. We will begin a new homeless ministry in July 2011 and also be pastor to a smaller congregation. It is through faith that we listen again to God's directions for us. It is through the reflections in the windows that God's handiwork is visible and it is in this reflection that Ann and I see ourselves responding to God's beckoning call.

Dick



Memorials



In Memory of: **Patricia A. Tracey**
 For: Memorial Fund
 Given by: Helen C. Almony

For: **Unified Budget**
 Given by: Pete & Pat Caltrider

In Memory of: **Isabell Nester**
 For: Unified Budget
 Given by: Helen C. Almony



January Special Birthdays

January 6 - **Frances Hatcher 87**, 326 Mary Avenue, Westminster, MD 21157

January 6 - **Dot Bond 82**, 1020 Green Hill Farm Road, Reisterstown, MD 21136

January 30 - **Dudley Gooch 97**, 2261 Old Westminster Pike, Finksburg, MD 21048

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



Thank You!

♥ My thanks to all of the Church groups for the "Basket of Love." It is so very thoughtful and appreciated especially at this time of the year. Blessings, *Alice Seohnlein*

♥ Dear friends at RUMC, What a lovely surprise at my door a few days before Thanksgiving when I realized someone had delivered a very nice basket filled with many things not only to eat but useful items too. Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness. It made my day! God bless you all. Peggy Reter for *Edith (Pinky) Fisher*

♥ To the Reisterstown United Methodist Church, I am sorry that this note is late. The prayer shawl you gave to me was a wonderful gift. It also served its purpose for I am now back to good health. Sincerely, *Ellen M. Cronhardt*

♥ Dear Church Family, What a nice surprise I had when I opened my door last Thursday and found Pastor Dick holding a "Basket of Love" for me. It was great to chat with him and to examine all the items in the basket. I have eaten all the goodies and enjoyed them. It is truly a labor of love to make these treats and give them away. The other items are all very useful and will come in handy. One group had crafted an ornament which I'll add to my tree. My thanks to all who contributed in any way to my basket – and best wishes to all for a happy holiday season. In Christian love, *Ann Garman*

♥ Dear Church Friends: I want to thank you so much for the lovely Holiday basket I received. There were so many items - from soap to tree decorations to good things to eat. Thank you all for thinking about me. *Lucille Aler* - Sunnywoods Assisted Living

♥ It is heartwarming when we receive a visit, a card, an e-mail, or a phone call from our friends at RUMC. What a pleasant surprise it was when a "Basket of Love" was unexpectedly delivered to us. The various communications we receive help us keep in touch with RUMC events, and although we are not there, we participate vicariously. We find it helpful to browse through the Church Directory, and recall our friends from their photographs. Our sincere wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a blessed new year. *Helen Glasgow and Frank Simmonds*

OUR CHURCH MATTERS
NEWSLETTER OF REISTERSTOWN UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
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REV. DICK HARDEN
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From The Domestic Violence Shelter:

I want to sincerely thank you for your most recent donation to our Domestic Violence Shelter. Since we are primarily funded through grants, we are always aware of our spending and like many programs, always seem to have more needs than we do money. Not only did you provide things the residents use daily (paper towels, shampoo, diapers, band aids, etc.), but also some wonderful "extras" like new sweaters and makeup. Since many of our residents have to leave their living situation quickly, they often come here with little or nothing.

Please know that everything you donated will be used and appreciated by our residents - both current and future. It is through generous donations such as this, that we are able to continue existing for the women and children who need us. Again, thank you for your most recent (and continuing) support of the DV shelter. It is greatly appreciated.

*Sue Podobnik
DV Shelter Program Coordinator*

Board of Child Care:

The collection for the Christmas Store at the Board of Child Care was a huge success. Thank you very much. I took four trips there to drop off donations. I had a wonderful time helping to organize and price all the wonderful items. The children had a great variety from which to choose, and I am sure they felt wonderful being able to give gifts to their families. Thanks also to those who made money donations and to those who filled the Board of Child Care boots. Your generosity is appreciated.

Gratefully, Cindy Smith, Auxiliary Representative

The Parish Nurse Ministry and Greg Howard are teaming up in the new year to do a few sessions on *Living Wills for Healthcare!* This is not 'what to do

with your stuff' when you pass. This is about having an established spokesperson for your healthcare in times of illness and/or incapacitation. This is so important no matter the age! I've had one since the age of 24! We will have some different times to sign up and join us! Watch for some clipboard sign ups in the New Year and we will commence toward the end of

January/early February! Since January is kind of a 'get things in order/start fresh' month we hope you will join us to educate yourself! If you have any questions please see Tracy Tambaoan, our Parish Nurse!



Greetings from Ganta, Liberia:

Dear VIM and the RUMC congregation, Greetings to you from Ganta, Liberia. I want to say a big thanks to the VIM, Brit Weber, and Sue Henry for the Thanksgiving Breakfast and donating the proceeds to the Winifred J. Harley College of Health Sciences in Ganta. There are many needs here...hungry students, leaking roofs that need repair...so it is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for supporting and sponsoring the Alternative Christmas gifts on behalf of the College of Health Sciences also.

One of the girl's dorms is under construction now. Half of the roof is done and some the interior structural work - which means putting walls where they weren't and putting openings in walls where they are needed. It's really quite fun and interesting to watch this.

There will be a newsletter coming soon so you will get more details in that. I also have a blog where you can see pictures of the progress of the renovation among other things happening around the Ganta Mission Station. The address is: <http://suehereandthere.blogspot.com/> Again, thank you for your continuing support. Best wishes to you for a very Merry Christmas and blessed New Year.

In God's service - *Sue Porter*

Infant, Child and Adult CPR/First Aid Class:

Teachers, Daycare workers, Babysitter, Parents...

Come out and get your CPR and First Aid certification.

When: Saturday, January 29, 2011
Where: Church library
Time: CPR 8:30 - 9:45 am
First Aid 10:30 - 11:45 am

Cost: \$40 per class or \$50 for both

Attendees must pre-register by January 21st

Lani Hoffmann - 410-526-6967 or lanio5@verizon.net
Pam Horner - 410-833-3692 or jptakeahike@aol.com

DID YOU KNOW ...

The required amount needed to meet RUMC mortgage payment is \$5,702.53 every month.

From the Community Crisis Center:

Dear Friends at Reisterstown United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your generous gift to the Community Crisis Center, Inc. (CCC) in the amount of \$90.00 dated 11/5/10.

We greatly appreciate your decision to consider your **local** neighbors in need. As our nation continues to endure the most severe recession since the Great Depression, many residents in our local community are on the verge of economic devastation. Families are making tough decisions, such as **FOOD** or bus fare...medicine...utilities...rent...gas...**CCC is in dire need for your continued support in 2011 and beyond.**

CCC remains dedicated to the prevention of homelessness for residents of Reisterstown, Owings Mills and Glyndon through the provision of **emergency food, personal hygiene products, school supplies, career clothing, financial literacy, and monthly grants for eviction-prevention and utility assistance.** In response to escalating unemployment and in an effort to further sustain clients, CCC is implementing a job readiness program to help install basic computer skills, enhance online job search and resume building.

With the generous support of people like you, CCC will be able to continue to improve or services to help build a community wherein all individuals and families are empowered to experience productive and financially self-sufficient lives. For more information on how **your donation is helping to make a difference in the lives of more than 2,700 at-risk local residents**, or to make a convenient on-line donation, we invite you to visit our website at www.communitycrisiscenter.org.

Thank you once again for your generous gift.

Most Sincerely,

Deborah Goff, MSW
Executive Director

Gift Card Purchase Raised \$2,913.93:



Thanks to everyone who purchased gift cards from RUMW. This year our profit from the sale of cards was \$2,913.93. That is \$13.79 more than 2009. We will continue to sell gift cards on the 3rd Sunday in each month until November.

Please purchase gift cards from our Women's group. For every card you buy, you make a donation to RUMC and you get the full value of the card. You can use these cards for groceries, gas and personal use. It is just like using cash or a credit card. Questions, call *Tammy Nash* at 410-239-8394. **January 16** is the 3rd Sunday and we will be by the Fellowship Hall to take orders between services. Happy New Year!



From the Shelves:

My book club and I recently read "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett. Set in Jackson, Mississippi, during the 1960's, it shows us the relationship between black maids and the white families that they served. It really opened my eyes to the way things were back then. Did you know that black maids weren't allowed to use the bathroom in their white employers' houses? They had to use their own special facilities, which were usually located out in the garage.

Throughout the book, we meet many colorful characters of both races. Three of them act as our narrators. Since two of them are black and the other's white, we get both sides of the story. It's worth checking out. *-Beth Waters*



Book Club:

We're starting out the New Year with a novel called The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein. This is about a dog named Enzo who tries to bring a family back together after a three-year custody battle between daughter Zoe's father and her maternal grandmother. We will meet in our church library on **Wednesday, January 19th at 7:00 pm.** We'd love to have some new members. Please join us!

Men's Ministry:

The *Men's Fellowship* is thankful for the endorsement of friends and supporters in their efforts of ministry and service to the community and congregation during the past year. Your encouragement and support sustains the tasks undertaken by the men. The *Garments for Guys* undertaking reached its goal and will continue during the winter months. Additional donations of sweaters, heavy sweatshirts, hats, gloves, scarves and jackets will be sought. Please donate only clean, gently used or new clothing. The clothing donations will be given to area men's shelters. Your contributions for our brothers in need will be accepted after both the 8:30 and 10 am services in the Narthex and at the Fellowship Hall entrance.

The *Men's Fellowship 2011 Kickoff Breakfast* is planned for *Saturday, January 8th at 8 am at Pastor Dick's home.* Men of RUMC are invited for a morning of fellowship, and to learn of the exciting activities planned for 2011. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend. **YOU MUST RSVP!!!**

On **Wednesday, Jan 12th** the *Men's Study group* will begin the *Disciple I* bible study. It is an extremely informative and spiritually rewarding exploration of *The Old Testament*. The *8-week* study utilizes a workbook, videos and The Bible. All men are invited to participate in the study. If you are interested and/or have questions, please contact *Steve Marroulis or Tony Trcka* of the **Men's Fellowship**.

Sir John Templeton - "I have watched over 100,000 families over my years of investment counseling. I always saw greater prosperity and happiness among families who tithed than among those who didn't."

The Stewardship Committee

2011 Super Bowl Sunday Sub Sale!



Celebrate the 2011 Super Bowl with **delicious homemade subs** from the United Methodist Women! To help you out in this economy, we're keeping our prices the same as they've been since 2008!!! 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 are an excellent value as they come **super loaded** and are double-wrapped with condiments separate so they can even be used for lunches on Monday!

Subs can be picked up on Saturday, February 5th between 11:00 AM and 12:00 noon or on game day – Sunday, February 6th between 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM.

Order forms will be available on the table in the Narthex and taken at the Fellowship Hall entrance **between services on Sundays through January 30th.** If you have any questions, please call *Patti Musial* at 410-857-4484 or email (EdwardMusial@aol.com).

Deadlines:

For announcements in the weekly *bulletin* please submit them to the church office no later than **3 pm on Wednesdays.**

The next *newsletter* deadline is **January 16th** for the February newsletter. Please e-mail articles to irene.catlin4@gmail.com or deposit them in the Newsletter mailbox.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration of those who are responsible for bulletin and newsletter.

Youth Dates to Remember:

**1/9 Rock meeting following
2nd service**

1/21-23 ROCK in Ocean City



REISTERSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Carol C. Yocum & Dick Harden, Pastors

246 Main Street

Reisterstown, MD 21136

Return Service Requested

DEPLOYED LOVED ONES SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Paul Barnes, Army in Iraq, Kathryn Jones's friend
Matthew Caltrider, Marines at Camp LeJeune, NC, grandson of Pete & Pat Caltrider
Michael Eames, U.S. Army, Linda's Eames' son
Rodney Fox, Army in Iraq, Debbie Sofranko's son
Lindley Garcia, USMC in Afghanistan, Carol Judkins' friend
Joshua Hakakian, Army in Kuwait, Roxanne Dalesio's nephew
Dennis Mack, Army in Iraq, Thelma Mack's nephew
Chris Mattingly, Army in Ft Lewis, Washington, Matt Dawson's friend
Nick Meanza, Jr., Air Force in Afghanistan, Beth Water's friend
Kyle Townshend, USAF in San Antonio, TX, Pete Townshend's son
William Walker, Navy, Theresa Guest's brother
Dale Yohn, Caterpillar Co. employee stationed in Afghanistan, Marion Yohn's son

Our Missionaries

Ed Benner, now home with his family

Sue Porter, has returned to Liberia