



OUR CHURCH MATTERS

ISSUE NUMBER 2

REISTERSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRAURY 2010

On Sunday, February 6th RUMC will celebrate its 234th birthday. We are going to have a birthday party. Do not miss being in worship and the fellowship time planned by the History Committee. Wouldn't it have been fun to be a fly on the wall during those decades of congregational life? What were the "ups and downs" of the congregation? Where were they faithful in making disciples for Jesus Christ and where did they miss the boat because of issues that distracted them from their primary mission?



A lot has changed for our congregation over the centuries. Yet by God's grace, we have survived and continue to do ministry in this community and beyond. That is cause for celebration! RUMC is facing a time of transition this summer when the pastoral leadership changes. Lack of change only happens when something is dead; life is about growing and changing. It is natural for all of us to want to hang on to the familiar—we know how to deal with that. But the nature life and the future is that nothing stays the same—that can make us anxious, uneasy, and even fearful.

In many instances not everything changes in our futures—just some things. RUMC's facilities and location will not change. Our congregation will basically remain the same, though every year there are changes in who is a part of our congregation. I always grieve those that die or move, but have lived long enough to know that wonderful new people come to share the journey. Our solid youth ministry, growing Sunday school, mission focus, welcoming new people, wonderful music ministry, and worship life will remain. We will still have the same mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ. Some Lay leadership changes every year and pastoral changes come as part of our life as United Methodists as well.

How does our faith help us as we face the future and the unknowns? God is with us in all change and we are to trust him. God wants what is best for us; we trust God better when we remember we do not have control over all that happens to us. If we don't trust God we succumb to fear, anxiety, unhappiness, and complaining.

We see this again and again in the Bible. When the Chosen People left Egyptian slavery under the leadership of Moses, they

had a hard time trusting that God was in their transition to the Promised Land. They wasted 38 years in the wilderness because they didn't trust God to keep them safe. They looked at the obstacles instead of God's possibilities.

We are Christians because of our allegiance to Christ and to Christ's people. St. Paul spoke of the various roles of leaders in the life of the early church—some planted, some watered, some were there for the harvest. Over the years all of us have

experienced pastors and leaders in the church who have been very influential in our lives. We appreciated them and miss them when they are gone. But new leaders bring new gifts and help a congregation move forward into its vision.

It is helpful to remember that some people will experience more grief in a time of change than others. Remember that the pastor(s) and his or her family may also be experiencing grief over leaving their last appointment—everything is changing for them—friends, schools, neighborhood, work place, worship place. Be kind to each other in the time that it takes to get through transition. Healthy change takes some time—but not forever. Don't keep comparing what was, with what is—that will leave you stuck in the past and unable to appreciate what God is doing in the present moment.

Support each other. Begin praying now for God to be in the new configuration of RUMC and to help people deal in healthy ways. When I was 15 my family moved to a new community with a new parent configuration. The move involved a new high school, new church, new house, new friends, no dad, and a good bit of grief for

How does our faith help us as we face the future and the unknowns?



Memorials



In Memory of: **Eleanor S. Smith**
 (Dennis Smith's Mother)
 For: UMCOR
 Given by: Gail Marshall
 Mark & Jurate Jaskulski
 Charles & Deborah Miller

Cemetery Clean-Up

A reminder to all who have place wreaths in the cemetery for Christmas: if you wish to save your flowers or wreath, please remove them **by the end of this month**. Clean-up will be the first week in March. Thank you.



February Special Birthdays

2/16 - **Tracy Huster** (92) 5020 Roller Road, Manchester, MD 21102

2/27 - **Edith Fisher** (98) 205 St. Mark Way, Apt. 128, Westminster, MD 21158

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, RUMC

234 Years on Sunday, February 6



Yes, we are "Forever Beginning" since 1777 - 234 years - from a little one-room log cabin to our beautiful sanctuary and facilities of today.

During each service you will hear of blessings received from some of our now deceased members. Listen and see which ones have touched your life in some way.

After both services on that day, there will be parties in the Fellowship Hall with birthday cake, punch and other goodies. We will also have a memorabilia display along with picture albums. How many people do you recognize? What events

have taken place? What are some of our milestones?

We know this is Super Bowl Sunday, but please stop by and celebrate as you pick up your Subs. It will only take a short time and you will be glad you did!



HELP LOCAL MISSIONS



BRING EMPTY INKJETS TO CHURCH and put them in the basket under the Secret Pal table.

CASH RECEIVED FROM THEIR SALE



Helps Our Local Less Fortunate!

All Kinds Are Acceptable.

BRING IN OLD CELL PHONES

Put them in the same basket.

SALE OF THESE WILL HELP OUR YOUTH ON THEIR MISSION TRIPS!

<p>OUR CHURCH MATTERS NEWSLETTER OF REISTERSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PASTORS REV. CAROL C. YOCUM REV. DICK HARDEN NEWSLETTER STAFF Office Administrator, Irene May Catlin Newsletter Editor, Deby Brooking Office Volunteers; Pat Dinsmore, Carol Hoffman, Gae Ray, Cindy Smith Collators; Peggy Eline, Helen Fair, Mary Jane Huffman RUMC e-Mail: irene.catlin4@gmail.com RUMC Web Site: rumcweb.org Office Phone: 410-833-5440 – Fax: 410-526-6838</p>

Submissions for the **March Newsletter** are due by **10:00 am, Sunday, February 13th**. Please e-mail articles to rumcoffice@rumcweb.org or deposit them in the Newsletter mailbox.



Thank You!

Dear RUMC Family, I think I am one of the luckiest persons alive. I work for some of the nicest, warm and loving people. During the Christmas season, every day I came to work and found cards and gifts on my desk. Thank you all so very much for the delicious homemade candies, cookies, and gift boxes of teas, hot chocolate, coffees, mugs (I do love great mugs), ornaments for my tree, etc. Everything was so unexpected but all so greatly appreciated.

The outpouring of acceptance and love was like a balm for me, especially this first year without my Mom. However, I do hold all of you responsible for the weight gain I incurred during the holidays!!!

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. May 2011 bring us all the tidings of the Good News of God's love for us. *Irene Catlin*

Dear RUMC Members, On behalf of all the **Mission of Mercy** staff and patients I would like to extend our thanks to all those who gave gift cards from Wal-Mart and Target for distribution at our Annual Toy Give-A-Way Day on Tuesday, December 21st. Your generosity and support is most appreciated. Even in these difficult financial times you found a way to help those less fortunate. May God continue to bless RUMC and your many ministries that serve the poor and needy not just at Christmas but throughout the year.

In Christ's Service,

Barbara Renner
Mission of Mercy Coordinator
Reisterstown Site

Dear Friends of **Heart's Place**, The guests who walk through our doors, our staff, our volunteers, and our board thank you for your recent generous donation.

We closed for the 2009-10 season on April 14, 2010, completing a full season of 24 weeks. I am calling Heart's Place the "Miracle on 27th Street"!

Back when we opened the first Sunday in November 2009, we had funds to remain open through mid-December. We never did receive the city grant of \$20,000 for that season, but thanks to the wonderful generosity of many churches and individuals, we were able to stay open a full season. Indeed a MIRACLE!!!

Our 24th season opened November 7, 2010, hosting 20 homeless men, women and children three nights a week, providing a safe respite, donated clothing, new underwear, hygiene items, showers, personal laundry services, guest phone, guest designated computer, case management services and 11 meals during those three days...

Our wonderful volunteers who bring us meals, material goods, and caring thoughts do sustain us...

Again, we thank you from our Hearts for your generous support.

Carol Berman
Director, Heart's Place Shelter



Prayer Shawl Ministry:

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to gather and work on prayer shawls, lap robes, baby blankets and helmet liners. In addition, several hats have been made to go with the coats being collected for the homeless men and women.

We are always eager to have new people join us. All crafters are welcome! If you don't know how to knit or crochet, and would like to learn, we can help. Or maybe you are stuck or have run into a snag on a project, come on out and someone will be glad to get you going again. **Join us on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at 10:00 am in the Parlor.**

If you have a relative or friend who would be comforted or helped by one of our projects, please get in touch with *Marion Yohn* (410-833-1982) or romayohn@aol.com. If you have a special request in color, or type, request that also. We can do that too.



Book Club:

The **February** meeting for Book Club will be on the **16th at 7:00 in our church library.** Have you ever wanted to get away from it all? Try this book: The Walk by Richard Paul Evans. This is the first novel in a series about Adam Chrisofferson who was once a successful advertising executive in Seattle.

After losing everything important to him, he decides to walk to the farthest point in the U.S. reachable by foot, Key West, FL, to seek new meaning to life.



From the Shelves:

Are you looking for a different kind of love story this Valentines? Check out Debbie Macomber's Hannah's List. A widower finds a letter from his deceased wife. She has left him a list of her approved replacements. Follow along in this story as the man checks out each of the ladies on the list. Will he find love again?

UMW Reading Club - Did you know that **anyone in the church can participate in the UMW Reading Club?** This is a list of books recommended by the United Methodist Church. The books' cover topics that are dear to the Church, including Aging, Finding Your Place in the Church, Immigration, The Middle East, Youth in The Church, The Homeless, and more. This year we have added a book that is stories from VIM teams. The books include Fiction and Non-Fiction. Our UMW unit will get credit at our Conference level if you read just 4 books between now and September 1st. Give me a call and I would be happy to meet with you and get you started. *Lani*

Spring Bus Trip - May 14th:



Enjoy a spring day bus trip with a *Guided tour of Old Alexandria, VA.*

Lunch at the Royal Restaurant,

Then over to Washington D.C. to Madame Tussauds' Wax Museum

& last, a guided tour of Washington National Cathedral.

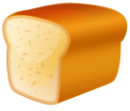
We leave the church parking lot at 8 A.M. & return by 5:30 P.M.

Date: Saturday, May 14th

Cost: \$65 per person
Lunch included

Money is due April 1st.

For questions & to reserve a seat, contact *Carol Hoffman 410-871-9199* or cahoff2@verizon.net.



"Bread and Broth"



This year, we are offering a **Lenten Bible Study in lieu of the Wednesday night Lenten services.** The study is entitled "Bread and Broth" and focuses on individual personalities from the Bible. We will be studying Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Elisha, John the Baptist and Jesus.

The study will be offered at various times throughout the week, both evenings and day time. For those interested in Wednesday evenings, the study will begin on March 2, skip March 9 so you can attend the Ash Wednesday Service, pick up again on March 16 and finish on April 13.

As the title implies, there will also be a fellowship time so we can share a meal of bread and soup before the study begins. **Dinner will start at 6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall; the **study will begin at 7:00 pm** and finish no later than 9:00 pm. For those attending on **Wednesday** evenings, the cost of the study is **\$20.00 per person** and includes your study guide and funds to offset some of the cost of the meal. We are hoping that there will be enough groups so that the soup can be provided by a different group each week.

For groups meeting at times other than Wednesday evenings, the cost is \$8.00 for your study guide. It is hoped you will be able to share a meal and time of fellowship as part of your time together.

Look for **sign-up sheets** in the Narthex starting **February 6th** or contact *Pat Botelle* at pat_botelle@yahoo.com if you are interested.

Men's Ministry:

The *Men's Fellowship Wednesday Study group* is continuing to examine the *Introduction to the Old Testament* on **Wednesdays** in February until Ash Wednesday. The course is a very informative and a spiritually rewarding study of the Old Testament. This is an *8 week* abbreviated version of *Disciple I* and utilizes The Bible, a video and instructional video. If you are interested, please drop in for a visit. If you have previously taken *Disciple I* you are welcome to join us for a refresher version and review. A new study will be offered in March. The Men's Fellowship Wednesday Study group is open to all men.

The *Men's Fellowship* will offer a *Lenten Day Retreat* on **February 26th** at Pleasant Grove UMC. This *1 day retreat* will again be hosted by the men of Pleasant Grove. The topic presented will be an examination of the *life of John Wesley and Methodism*. The event will be held *9 am to 2 pm* with lunch provided. Details will be forthcoming and **reservations** for RUMC men should be made at the RUMC office @ 410-833-5440.

On *Saturday, March 6th* @ *8 am*, the **Men's Fellowship Monthly Breakfast** will be held at the New Towne Dinner. This well-attended event just for the guys and friends is a relaxing ala carte breakfast with lively exchanges and good humored banter on almost any subject. Meet with friends and make new ones. You can learn about the continuing and new activities of the **Men's Fellowship** and how to participate in them. Don't miss the opportunity and bring a friend!



Thank You!

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you so much for the Basket of Love you sent through Rev. Dick. It was such a nice surprise and contained so many useful and delicious things. I enjoyed them very much and want to give you my complete thanks.

Elsie Smith

News from RUMW:

Are you still driving a car and eating in 2011? Well, you can fill up your refrigerator and gas tank and give a donation to RUMC at the same time. How? Purchase our gift cards for gas and food. It is that simple.

Every time you purchase a gift card from RUMW, you make a donation to RUMC Women's projects. We sell them each month, **the 3rd Sunday, February 20th between services at the Fellowship Hall.** Or you can call anytime before that date to place your order. Contact *Tammy Nash*, 410-239-8394. Plan ahead and buy gift cards for Birthdays and eating out.

UM Women's Corner:

The UMW is hoping that your new year is going well so far. We wanted to fill everyone in on a few upcoming events that the women have going on in the near future. We hope that you'll be able to participate!

First of all, we are having Deborah Goff, Director of the *Community Crisis Center* speak at the **next UMW meeting**. She has done some great things to equip the Crisis Center to handle many clients in more significant ways. Anyone interested may attend. The meeting will be held on **Feb. 3rd at 7 pm**. She'll be first on the agenda. Please **RSVP** to *Linda Finley*, lindafinley@verizon.net, or 410 833-9217, if you are planning to attend.

Wraps for Women update: Thank you for your generous donations of women's coats, sweaters, scarves, gloves, etc.!! We have already made a huge delivery to the Hanna Moore Women's Center and they were most appreciative...We will continue the drive at least through January and now want to *expand the collection to include children's warm outerwear* to help the children in the shelters. Please continue to drop off the clothing in the Narthex after the 8:30 and 11:00 am services.

Sisterhood: On **Feb.1, 8, 15th** we will be reading and discussing a book called *"Heaven is For Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip To Heaven and Back"*. All women are welcome! Please contact Kelly Fairhurst by email: Kelly.Fairhurst@erickson.com, if interested, so she can order your book.

Sisterhood is having a fellowship **breakfast** for all women on **February 26th at 8:30 am**. The location is to be determined. Contact *Kelly Fairhurst* if you are able to join us.

Thank you so much for being a part of such an active, vital women's group, and by growing with us spiritually, donating your extra warm clothes, being willing to serve, or just continuing to buy those gift cards, subs and goodies so we can help those in need. Blessings of health, peace and joy, *Linda Finley, President, UMW*

Help for Women Impacted by Incarceration



Are you a woman 20 years or older and have a friend or family member who is incarcerated (or was previously)? You are not alone. There is a ministry that can connect you to other women in a similar situation.

Kairos Outside of Maryland holds a weekend retreat that you can attend. The retreat is lead by Christian women, many of whom have a friend or family member who is currently or was previously incarcerated. Many topics related to things you may be going through are discussed. After you attend the retreat, you will be invited to 4 Reunions each year where you can connect with women who attended one of the 9 weekends that have been held in MD. The next retreat will be held **April 29-May 1, 2011** in New Windsor. If you are interested in attending a retreat or would like more information, contact *Deby Brooking* at [410-370-4108](tel:410-370-4108) for a Guest Reservation Form. Once you complete the form and mail it in, you will be contacted for the next available weekend (there are a maximum of 25 Guest openings per weekend). The weekends are held twice a year; if you aren't able to attend the April-May retreat, you will be contacted to attend the Oct 21-23, 2011 weekend. Concerned about costs? Don't be. The retreat is funded by donations so there is **no cost to you to attend**. Is transportation a concern? Arrangements can be made for a volunteer to take you to and from the retreat. Worried about confidentiality? Kairos Outside adheres to a strict confidentiality policy.

If you have questions or would like to talk to someone who has had a family member/friend incarcerated, call me after 5 pm, I've been there and I do understand that you are doing time right along with him/her. *Deby Brooking, Kairos Outside of Maryland Advisory Council.*



REISTERSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Carol C. Yocum & Dick Harden, Pastors

246 Main Street

Reisterstown, MD 21136

Return Service Requested

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everyone in my family. There were some great things about my new community that I grew to love very much once I let go of the past and allowed myself enjoy the new. My aunt and uncle lived in the new town and became wonderful second parents to my brothers and me and a great support to my mom. Our new youth group and church were phenomenal. But the high school band never measured up, and it took me a while to let go of my disappointment and the constant comparison of the two bands. The youth ministries of our church replaced my prior focus on the band and were instrumental in my hearing a call to ministry. God moves in mysterious ways to bring good out of the resistance we often engage in.

Be open to God and God's new leadership—pray, asking for that openness of heart and mind. In longing for the past, and fearing the future, we gloss over the past's disappointments and difficulties and idealize what was. The Children of Israel idealized their life of slavery because they didn't trust God! They missed many of God's intended blessings as a result. Most of them died in the wilderness, never getting to the Promised Land.

Remember to appreciate your new pastoral leadership for who he or she is. Compliment and encourage them based upon their gifts--not because they remind you of past leaders or pastors or their spouses or children. Each of us is given gifts to do God's work in the present circumstances. Praise God for that every day!

You are a blessing to me and I know you will be a blessing to the next lead pastor. I thank God for you every day.

Pastor Carol