

# OUR CHURCH MATTERS

ISSUE NUMBER 4

REISTERSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2010

There are preachers in our time that will promise people wealth, success, good health, if they are faithful to God. “Life is a Bonanza of good things for those who believe!” Yet if we are faithful to what Jesus taught, we know that he never promised wealth. Jesus promised crosses and persecution for those who followed him. He taught that his disciples were to be humble servants, not arrogant prima donnas.

While there were also promises of joy, hope, God’s love and forgiveness, we have to have a balanced perspective. The Christian life is not all sacrifice; it is not all a “bed of roses.” We, struggle to remember the crosses that come with our faith and not just focus on the blessings. I know my own heart—it is always being tempted by the “much-ness and more-ness” of our society. It is hard to remember that good and blessing don’t necessarily involve having a lot of “stuff.”

Lent is a time to focus on sacrifice—especially the sacrifice of Jesus. Through sacrifice, God has worked to help us be the better selves, rather than the self-absorbed selves. There is value in sacrifice. God redeemed the world from the power of sin, death and evil through sacrifice. If we willingly make sacrifices for the good of others, God uses those times to grow our spiritual maturity.

April 2011 is the month that we look at the disciplines of giving and generosity. Giving and generosity are spiritual matters. Are our hearts treasuring what God treasures? How we handle our money and resources is a reflection of our faith.

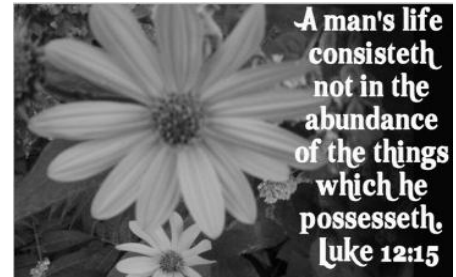
John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist reformation of England, saw generosity as the most critical of disciplines to staying “alive” and growing as a Christian. Wesley saw a lot of what historians now call “redemption and lift” in lives of Methodists. Many English people, who were converted to Christ under the ministry of Wesley, were very poor. As many of these people grew in faith, their lifestyles changed: they no longer drank away their livelihood; they didn’t gamble; they were consistent in their work life; they saved some of their earnings; they were helped by other Christians in tough financial times and reciprocated when they were no longer in a difficult place; they gave a tithe (10%) of their money to God.

Over time, Wesley saw many of his “flock” go from being financially poor to being financially comfortable (redemption and lift). However, when many Methodists became financially

*Lent is a time to focus on sacrifice - especially the sacrifice of Jesus*

“comfortable,” they were no longer as generous or as caring for the needs of the poor. They became more “self-sufficient” and were apathetic in their faith. This grieved Wesley a great deal. Greed was subtly influencing the people who were called Methodist.

In Luke 12, Jesus had some things to say about money and people’s attitudes toward it: <sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup>Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?”...



<sup>22</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. . . your Father knows that you need them. .

<sup>31</sup>But seek his kingdom and these things will be given to you as well. <sup>32</sup>“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. . . From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” *Continued on back page*



## April Special Birthdays

April 27<sup>th</sup>: **Georgia Beutelspacher** - 86  
911 Lindellen Avenue, Reisterstown, MD 21136

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



## Wraps for Women:

Thanks to the congregation for making this outreach such a success. Through your generosity we were able to provide:

### For Women:

140 coats, 85 sweaters/blazers, and 200 items such as hats, pairs of gloves, and scarves

### For Children, your kindness provided:

26 coats, 16 sweaters/tops, and 24 other items such as hats gloves, and scarves

These were distributed to those in need at Hanna Moore Shelter, Interim Housing for women and children in Owings Mills and Pikesville, and the Carroll County Safehouse.

Thanks again for providing warmth to women and children in need this winter! *UMW*



## Book Club:

The next Book Club meeting will be **Wednesday, April 27 at 7:00 in our library.** Our selection is The Lord is My Shepherd by Debbie Viguie, first of The Psalm 23 Mysteries. Church secretary Cindy Preston discovers a body in the church. Rabbi Silverman of a nearby synagogue arrives to help. This is a good novel for April since the events take place during Holy Week. – *Cindy*

## Our Nursery School has Openings:



There are openings beginning this fall. Please contact *Jill Fell*, 410-998-9710, for more information.



## From the Shelves:

There is a great new book on the shelves. Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall and Denver Moore is a true story about life transformations.

The book tells the story of a homeless man and a wealthy couple who volunteer at a local shelter. Through the years a deep and loving relationship evolves that transforms the lives of more than just these three people. This is an inspirational story of faith, friendship, healing and unconditional love. It also counts as one book in the UMW Reading Club.

## Annual Mother/Daughter Banquet:

“Meet Me At The Fair” at the Reisterstown Fair Grounds (Asbury Fellowship Hall) for the Annual Mother/Daughter Banquet. It will be held on **Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 6:30 pm.**

**Tickets will be sold** early this year due to Easter. They will be on sale in Asbury Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and April 17<sup>th</sup> between 9:30 - 10:00 am and between 11:00 - 11:30 am.

Adults (age 12 & up)	\$12 per person
Children (age 2-11)	\$ 6 per person
Infants (up to age 2)	Free

If you are bringing an infant-aged child, please get a ticket to ensure adequate seating.

## From the Editor:

Submissions for the *May Newsletter* are due by 10 am on **Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.** Please e-mail articles to [rumcoffice@rumcweb.org](mailto:rumcoffice@rumcweb.org) or deposit them in the Newsletter mailbox. **This is 1 week earlier than usual!**

OUR CHURCH MATTERS  
 NEWSLETTER OF REISTERSTOWN UNITED  
 METHODIST CHURCH  
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 REV. DICK HARDEN

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## **Cherub Choir:**

“The Cherub Choir will begin rehearsing in April for Easter and Mother’s Day services. All children in preschool through second grade are invited to participate. **Rehearsals are from 9:30 – 10 am in room 2** in the Sunday school hallway. Rehearsal dates are as follows: **April 3, 10, 17, 24, and May 1 and 8.**

Please encourage your little ones to join the choir – the more the merrier! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact *Jennifer Skidmore* at (443) 414-9032 or [jerb00@yahoo.com](mailto:jerb00@yahoo.com) or *Carron Berger* at (410) 526 – 5935.”

**Benefit Concert:** The Handel Choir of Baltimore will perform on Sunday, **April 3 at 3pm** at Goucher College, Kraushaar Auditorium. The cost is \$40 (\$15 is tax deductible). For tickets call 410-922-2100 ext 5610 or visit [www.boardofchildcare.org](http://www.boardofchildcare.org)

**Flower Power: Think Spring!** The BCC Auxiliary is selling perennials and bulbs. 50% of the total sales will benefit the children served by BCC. See the UMW bulletin board to look at the catalog or visit [www.flowerpowerfundraising.com](http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com) (Click Place an Order and then type Board of Child Care Auxiliary, Baltimore, Maryland. Click the Auxiliary link and choose Order Now.) All online orders must be made by April 29<sup>th</sup>. Or you may give your order to Cindy Smith by April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Box Tops:** Continue collecting for Education symbols and UPCs from participating Campbell products. Place in the UMW mailbox slot.

Call *Cindy Smith* your BCC Representative, 410-833-7240 with any questions.

**THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!**

## **Attention High School Seniors and All College Students:**



Anyone currently enrolled in college or planning to attend college in the fall may complete a ***loan application for the Linwood-Cross or Griffin-Yohn*** funds. These are interest-free and repayment does not begin until one year after graduation. Students who have received loans in the past must reapply to let us know of your interest. **The deadline for these loan applications is June 15<sup>th</sup>, but you are encouraged to get them in early.** Forms are available in the church office or by calling *Sandy Thawley* at 410-833-6841.

**Grace Cookson Scholarship Fund** for those churches that were on the former Baltimore West District, applications are now available. However, a church can have only one applicant so please contact the church office if you are interested in applying for this scholarship.



## *The Candlelighters Spring Concert*

**Sunday, June 12th, 2011**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Towson United Methodist Church  
501 Hampton Lane—Towson**

This 36 member ecumenical women’s chorus, directed by Phyllis Rudolph, is celebrating 39 years of “Ministry Through Music”. The chorus had its beginnings at Towson UMC in 1972, and while now based at Glyndon UMC, returns to Towson each June to present a Spring Concert to which the public is invited.

Each Monday night, September through mid-June, the chorus either rehearses or takes it music ministry to nursing homes, retirement centers, churches or civic organizations throughout the Baltimore/Central Maryland area.

We invite and encourage you to support the Candlelighters by attending this ***free***, public concert. Bring your friends!



## **From our Parish Nurse:**

\*\*A great BIG **THANK YOU** to Greg Howard and the members of my Health Ministry Team who helped with the Living Wills Session on 3/6! It was a HUGE success!!!

*1 Corinthians 3:16-17*

***"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are."***

Much of what a "Nurse in a Church" is all about is weaving in our Body, Mind and Spirit connection with a focus on keeping people healthy before disease destroys our temples. Additionally when our physical bodies are diseased it will affect our mind and spirits. When our spirits are harmed, it can affect our bodies as well (example: STRESS!)

To that end there are two things I'd like to announce and place emphasis on as we end American Hearth Month 2011:

**HELP US WALK TO JERUSALEM!!!** We are (figuratively) WALKING from Reisterstown to Jerusalem for Lent!! Its 5,872 miles!! Please report your MINUTES of activity each week to Tracy via the purple slips on the glass table in the Narthex or via email to [rumcnurse@gmail.com](mailto:rumcnurse@gmail.com) Remember even housework counts and don't forget your kid's sporting events or even the hours they play outside!! Swim team, soccer, hockey and I'm sure baseball is starting up soon too! This is a family/group effort! So even 5 minutes helps! All of you "dancers" on Friday nights don't forget that is activity!! The idea is to get us moving as a congregation and for us NOT to end up over the ocean (and not make it to Jerusalem by Easter!!)

The Health Ministry Team is also putting together a Heart Healthy Cookbook! Almost every great dinner I've ever had has included some yummy recipe from a CHURCH cookbook! But we also want to offer some heart healthy alternatives (lower salt, applesauce instead of oil when baking, low fat cream soups etc) so what do we need?? YOUR RECIPES!! You can email them to

[rumcnurse@gmail.com](mailto:rumcnurse@gmail.com) or if you don't do email, and then by all means submit them in writing to the office to be placed in my mailbox or give them directly to *Tracy Tambaon or Kelly Fairhurst*. We are looking for main dishes, side dishes, desserts, casseroles...whatever you want!! If you know some examples to make it heart healthy than by all means include those! Goal: Done before Mother's Day so you can have some easy, meaningful gifts for those special Mothers in your life!

In His Service,  
*Tracy Tambaon, RN, BSN, Parish Nurse*

## **The Office Needs Your Picture!**

As a way to help the office staff and the new pastor and part-time assistant we need an informal picture of you and your household. Please take a moment between services or after the 10 am hour of worship on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> and the Sundays in April. We hope all the regulars can get their pictures taken before Easter so that some who are not around as often can get theirs done on Easter. A thank you to *Dottie Townsend and Cindi Leisner* for taking the informal shots of everyone. Each Sunday the places for picture taking will be posted near the Main Sanctuary. These pictures will not be for sale; they will only be used in the office. Thanks for your help!

## **HISTORY & RECORDS TIDBIT**

From old Official Board Minutes -

February 6, 1945

"Rev. Brashears hoped to have a meeting one night each week during lent, but due to the fuel shortage, this will be impossible. However three services will be held - one on Wednesday, one Thursday and one on Friday evening during Holy Week. Special speakers will be secured for 2 of the 3 services."

## **Glee**

Coming **Saturday, April 30, 2011** for two shows only  
**- 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm.**

*Maryland Sings* will perform the music of Glee, Michael Jackson, The Wiz, and more. There are two choreographers working with styles and Bill Myers is the architect of sound.

## United Methodist Women's Corner:

Last month we talked about the UMW structure, mentioning that there's the UMW board, JOY, Circle of Friends, and Sisterhood. We focused on the Board, saying that it is the umbrella of UMW. While it is partly made up of representatives of other circles and Sisterhood, it has its own fundraisers, events, and women who participate who aren't a part of the other groups. All of their activities fit in with their purpose: (paraphrased) to know God, fellowship, and to support global missions to women and children. We also mentioned that UMW membership (and all of its meetings) is open to *all* women who choose to be a part and support its mission.

This month I wanted to showcase the JOY Circle. JOY is the largest and oldest circle, having been founded in the mid-1930's by Helen Berryman. JOY stands for: Jesus First, Others Second, and Yourself Last. While over time other circles emerged and/ or disbanded, JOY has continued and thrived since its founding. Now, it is comprised of about 35 members, mostly in the middle age range. (Did I say that tactfully enough?) (-: According to Sherry Osborne, President, JOY exists for "fellowship, friendship, and long term caring and serving. It is about how we tend to each other." Carol Hoffman, member, said something similar. "JOY's purpose is for fellowship for women, and service for the community and church." JOY is filled with activities, with something happening almost every month. They hold six "Cookie Walks" annually, where various kinds of cookies are made and sold, and on special occasions, homemade chocolate covered pretzels are included. This is their primary fundraising vehicle for missions. JOY is the single largest contributor to UMW, contributing \$9,000 in 2010, where the money is distributed to local and global missions for women and children, and related church needs. In addition, JOY has their own special mission project, supporting the Carroll County Safe House for battered women and children. For this project, they make monthly donations, and collect personal and household items year around for its residents. They also have a lot going on for fellowship purposes. Each year they take a day bus trip, this year going to Alexandria, Va and DC; they visit a different tea room and

combine the meal with a speaker; participate in a Secret Pal program where they anonymously exchange small gifts with each other; offer snacks and beverages after every meeting so people can visit; hold a potluck at someone's house, and finally they have an annual Christmas party.

I asked member Carol Lee, what she gains out of belonging to JOY. She responded with "Friendships and service. I like reacting to the needs of the church and community. It also gives me a sense of belonging- a closer connection to the church. You have to find that one thing the church offers where you are comfortable belonging and can get involved." Carol Hoffman said, "I like coordinating the donations to the Safe House. It feels like I'm giving back. I also enjoy organizing the bus trips. We get to go to fun places and it provides enjoyment for others. This is my way of serving; I'm not comfortable in a formal leadership role."

So, to all potential visitors- we welcome you at our monthly meetings where you will find a feeling of warmth and welcome. And you'll find you have the freedom to be who you are and find how you can best serve your church and community.

Blessings,

*Linda Finley, UMW President*

### Gift Cards:

Gift card orders will be taken on **Sunday, April 17** near the Fellowship Hall.

Gift cards aren't just for giving. You can use them every day for groceries, gasoline, Target, Wal-Mart and restaurants. You use them just like Credit Cards. And every time you purchase a card, you make a donation to RUMW. It is one of the best fundraisers we have. You get exactly what you pay for and we make money for our Missions projects. Purchase and give Gift cards for **Mothers Day and for graduation gifts.**

Order forms are on the bulletin boards in the Narthex and near the Fellowship Hall. Call *Tammy Nash* 410-239-8394 or *Lois Burton* 410-833-5489 for more information. Got some projects done around your home, we have Lowe's and Home Depot cards.

## Transitions:

Over the past several months your Church Council has been reading the book “Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes” by William Bridges. Bridges talks about three phases of the transition: the ending, the transition itself and the beginning. At our March meeting, we discussed what was ending, as every transition we make begins with the process of “endings.”

According to Bridges, there is usually an event that triggers the ending. In our case, that event was two-fold. Within a matter of weeks, both Pastor Carol and Pastor Dick announced their retirements effective June 30, 2011. So what was ending? Here are a few of the things the council thought of:

- The pastors' physical presence and areas of passion at RUMC
- A level of comfort for the congregation
- Co-operative parish
- Historical knowledge
- Their management style and skills

But equally important are the things we feel are not changing:

1. The ministries of RUMC
2. The rest of the staff
3. The mission of RUMC
4. Our history and traditions
5. RUMC's presence in the community
6. The lay leadership (several leaders have been asked to stay on one more year to help with the transition)

For you, personally, there will be specific things you think of that are ending/not ending during this transition.

Then the Council moved to an open discussion about what might happen as a result of these endings. While you may feel some of the following key concepts have a negative tone, please know that discussing these ideas among ourselves is a very good thing and can lead to positive outcomes and feelings.

Bridges feels that endings manifest themselves in a number of ways. Four are listed below:

Disengagement: In the midst of an ending we willingly or unwillingly separating ourselves from the situation—mentally or physically “check-out” regarding our activities, relationships and roles we’ve had in the church. We have had no choice in our pastors moving on (this may be unwilling separation). Yet it may cause us to look at church differently. As a result, we may

willingly reduce or end our volunteering, possibly reduce our giving, change churches or even leave the church.

Identity Change: Another way an “ending” may manifest itself, is that we may see RUMC differently now that familiar pastors will be gone. RUMC may no longer have the same identity to us. Consequently, we may no longer identify with our congregation, and it may no longer meet our needs. We may feel “the church isn’t where it should be, but it sure isn’t what it was!” We feel a real sense of loss or mourning.

Disenchantment: A third way we experience “endings” is by becoming disenchanted, whether it is through a minor disappointment or a major shock. We feel like our trust is betrayed by someone, and this may cause us to be apathetic, pessimistic or cynical. For example, United Methodists are often disenchanted with the pastoral appointment process because they have no real control over the decisions that are made. It is easy to “blame” the Conference, the Bishop or our Superintendent. There may be feelings of “Here we go again!” among leaders and members.

Disorientation: Finally, people may feel disoriented in the midst of an ending. We have no sense of priorities or plans for the future. We don’t know if things that were important will matter now. There’s a feeling of emptiness, confusion or fear of the unknown. Decisions don’t get made, things don’t feel the same and there may be a “wait and see” attitude, as people want to “wait for the new guy.” Worst of all, “endings” is a time when rumors run rampant and people don’t know what to believe.

So what do we do? We recognize that any and all of these feelings and reactions are a normal part of any transition. It’s important to let ourselves and others react as a first step in helping us move forward in a healthy way. So, as with any other area of life, don't make any decisions or changes in haste. If you want to discuss any of this or how you are feeling on a personal level, please reach out to a Church Council member and share your concerns.

At our next meeting, the Council will be discussing the “transition” and the “new beginning” and what we need to do to prepare. Stay tuned; there is a light at the end of this tunnel. God has gotten RUMC through change before and He will again.

Blessings

*Pat Botelle*

## Men's Ministry:

The *Men's Fellowship Study* group will continue its Lenten study "**Bread and Broth**" in April. The study will conclude with the last session on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The remaining 3 weeks of the study will focus on individual personalities from the Bible. They will be Elisha, John the Baptist and Jesus. The study begins at **7pm** in the Sr. High room at 308 Main Street. All men are invited to complete their Lenten journey together.

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The **Men's Fellowship and United Methodist Women** have launched their latest service project, *Eyeglasses for the Needy*. Together they are collecting old, discarded & unusable eyewear which will be given to an organization who will refurbish the items. *Eyeglasses For The Needy, Inc.* will distribute the eyeglasses to needy children and adults. *Any style or type of eyeglasses, sunglasses and frames* are being collected in a *special box* in the Narthex. Please check your drawers and cupboards and donate the eyeglasses to the **Men's Fellowship & UMW**.

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The *Garments for Guys* winter clothing drive was an unqualified success. The **Men's Fellowship** collected **151** gently used coats & jackets. Additionally several dozen other items collected were men's hats, gloves, sweaters, pants, pullovers plus some socks and shoes plus a very generous cash donation. Everything received by the men was distributed to the *Baltimore Rescue Mission and Heart's Place Shelter*. The overwhelming support is greatly appreciated by the guys and the organizations. Thank you for your outpouring of generosity. **God Bless** all the contributors.

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On the first Saturday of the month, **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the monthly **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** will meet at the *New Towne Diner in Owings Mills*. This gathering of guys meets each month for an a la carte breakfast in a very relaxed atmosphere of congeniality. The informal agenda includes friendly banter and lively exchanges on almost any current subject. All men from adolescent teen to aging seniors are invited to give it a whirl. *Come invite a friend and make some new ones.*



## Holy Week Schedule

- April 17 ***Palm Sunday*** Services  
8:30 & 10am  
10am Sunday School and Cribbery
- April 21 ***Maundy Thursday***  
Service & Holy Communion  
7 pm with Choir in the Main Sanctuary
- April 22 ***Good Friday***  
8am to 6pm Northside Chapel open for Prayer  
Community Good Friday Service—Noon  
Evening Good Friday Service — 7 pm with Choir in the Main Sanctuary
- April 24 ***Easter Celebrations***  
6:30 am Sunrise Service on the front lawn (weather permitting) with --Praise Band  
Continental Breakfast following 9:15 & 11am Services (**note the time changes**) — Main Sanctuary—Children's, Youth and Adult choirs at both services  
**Cribbery Care** for 4 and under at **both 9:15 & 11:00 am**  
**No Sunday School**
- April 25 Church Office Closed**

**Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> RUMC will honor those who have been members of the church for 25 years and longer. All who joined RUMC in 1986 and earlier will be recognized. Thank you to all of those who for so many years have been faithful to our congregation and supported it with prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.**



**REISTERSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Carol C. Yocum & Dick Harden, Pastors**

**246 Main Street**

**Reisterstown, MD 21136**

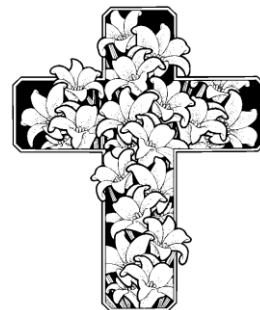
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**S**o do we save so we don't have to spend so much on interest and therefore free up more of our income to give? Can we curb some of our addictions or hobbies to enable generosity? Can we drive a Malibu rather than a Cadillac? Can we live modestly and share some expenses with others so as to stretch our dollars? Can we do more of our own cooking and save restaurant dollars? Do we save for our children's college educations so they don't need loans with interest? Do we save for our older years that might require nursing home care, rather than expecting the government to pick up our tab? (When we expect the government to support us we all pay higher taxes.) On the other hand are we willing to pay higher taxes or to help those in need, if

we fall in that group that has been "given much?"

We never want to be indifferent to the needs of the poor or to God's work through the church. Finding ways to help people to get back on their feet takes time, creativity, and money. But it is worth it—it is not putting a Band-Aid on a wound that needs stitches. The church's ministry and mission are also "worth it." I will be supporting RUMC's ministry with my giving in the year ahead. I hope you will too.



*Pastor Carol*