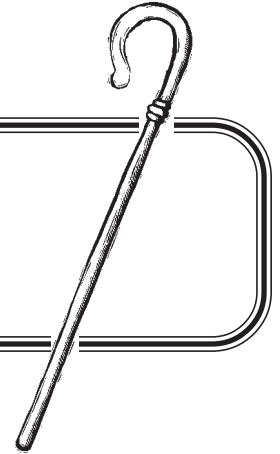


Chambers Hill United Methodist Church
6300 Chambers Hill Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111
Stephen G. Portner, Pastor
[717] 561-0388
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The Shepherd's Staff

September/October 2009



Thinking "Outside of the Boat"

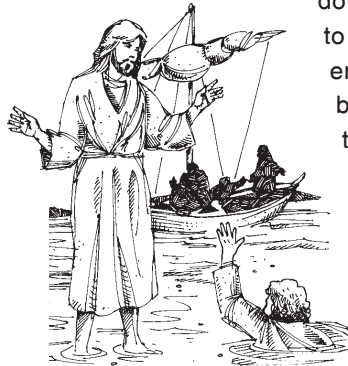
Pastor Stephen Portner

You have heard the phrase, "thinking outside of the box," as if it was a new concept in leadership. Jesus thought of it long before, but his style of leadership was literally thinking outside of the boat. Three gospels relate different perspectives of the day Jesus walked on water (Matt. 6:45-52; Matt. 14:22-33; and John 6:16-21). Jesus' approach to leading and making disciples was quite unconventional.

First, Jesus had sent the disciples on ahead of himself, crossing the Sea of Galilee to get to the other side. Crossing the sea could be a dangerous venture. This body of water is renowned for its sudden storms that catch those adrift on the sea by surprise. You can only imagine the anxiety the disciples experienced when they were asked to cross the sea without their leader. Jesus had chosen to withdraw to the mountainside for a time of prayer. One might wonder what Jesus had in mind by doing that. Was He just being inaccessible or was He intentionally taking the time He knew He needed to be in conversation with God about what the next steps in his ministry should be? Sometimes we confuse a leader's intentionally setting boundaries with being inaccessible. It wasn't that Jesus didn't want to stay in touch with the disciples; it was that He knew to be in better touch with what they needed to be in alignment with God's will, Jesus needed time to be in communication with His Heavenly Father.

Second, Jesus waited. Even though the disciples' boat was in the midst of a storm and being buffeted by waves and strong winds, Jesus did not respond immediately. He waited until the fourth watch of the

night, approximately 3:00 am, before He walked out on the water toward them. What might you expect a leader to do? Would Jesus immediately get in the boat and take over the steering through the storm? According to Mark's gospel, Jesus kept on walking on water and "was about to pass by them" (Mark 6:48). What? Jesus knew the disciples were in trouble yet He was just going to walk on by? What kind of leader would do that? A leader who wanted the disciples to step up in faith. Jesus offered words of encouragement, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid," but He waited for the disciples to make the first move.



Third, Jesus led the disciples beyond self-doubt to faith. The gospel of Matthew includes an extra insight on this with its telling of Peter's attempt to walk on water. Jesus did not force, coerce or beg Peter to get out of the boat. Peter took the initiative to get out of the boat and walk on water. When He took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the wind and waves instead, Peter began to sink. I don't know about you, but I was never in a situation where I was "beginning to sink." I sink like a rock. There is no gradual transition. Jesus reached out to Peter and caught him, chastising him with the words, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matt. 14:31). It wasn't that Peter doubted Jesus, because Jesus was still standing there on the water. Peter doubted himself and his faith, and therefore began to sink. Jesus used a tough love kind of leadership. He had the ability to do it all himself or to make people do what He thought they needed to do. Yet He chose not

(Thinking outside the Boat Continued)

to do so. Instead He allowed the disciples to venture forth on their own, to take the initiative, to learn, to stumble and fall on occasion, and to grow in discipleship by doing what they thought would be impossible. And it would have been impossible without God and their willingness to step out in faith. Jesus led by waiting for the disciples to think “outside the boat,” and I strive to model Jesus’ style of leadership.

In the last few months and as we prepare for the months ahead, people from Chambers Hill UMC have been becoming more intentional about stepping out of the boat. The Outreach Team has stepped out in an effort to share the gospel, including a recent Community Pig Roast to let the people know we care and want them to meet, know, and follow Jesus. Some have stepped out by sprucing up our church facility, such as the recent painting and carpeting of our church nursery so it can be more child-friendly. Some have stepped out to do long range planning, brainstorming on how we as a team can raise the levels of nurture, outreach and witness in our church and to our community. We’ll hear more about the proposal of that team in the Fall. Soon we will be encouraging people to step out in their generosity through a Consecration Sunday. As more and more people step out of the boat AND keep their eyes on Jesus, we will see more of how God makes the seemingly impossible possible.

A Place that Offers Life
by Daniel P. Smith, Mark K. Sellon
Submitted by Pastor Steve Portner

“Finances are tight, and our numbers are dwindling. The congregation is looking to me to turn things around. So is my denomination—that’s exactly what I was told when I was appointed here. And, frankly, that’s my expectation too. Isn’t that my job?” says a pastor of a congregation that has been experiencing decline for many years, voicing the belief of many congregations, denominations, and pastors that when a congregation is declining, it is the pastor’s job to fix it.

Here’s the hard truth. If you’re a layperson in a congregation that’s experiencing decline, whether the congregation thrives is ultimately up to you and the other members. Your pastor can teach, guide, lead, support, inspire, even cajole. But in the end, congregational health is a function of how people in the congregation relate to one another, to God, and to

their community. A congregation is a microcosm of the greater church, a local embodiment of the body of Christ. In John’s Gospel, Jesus says, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). We believe this is one of the primary messages that a healthy congregation embodies for its members and its surrounding community.

A congregation that is truly being *church* brings people into a loving, life-giving relationship with God and others that is transformational. This is the nature of the kingdom of God, where covenant relationships model the best aspects of family. People find hope. They experience belonging; they extend and receive forgiveness. They discover a sense of purpose and direction. They learn to live with appreciation and joy no matter what the circumstances. Although a pastor can preach and teach this message, the message has power only to the extent that the people in the congregation live it and practice it with one another. Practicing loving, life-giving relationships transforms congregation members. Witnessing such benefits draws others who want something similar for themselves and their families.

Businesses are based on the premise of offering something of value—goods or services—to a customer in exchange for money. Successful businesses “give value for money.” Gimmicks and fancy features may bring people through the door, but people won’t buy unless they believe they’ll receive something of worth. And they’ll return and recommend the business to others only if they receive something of value. Congregations are not businesses, yet they can fall into a similar trap of thinking that it’s the features and the gimmicks that people want. A congregation’s greatest asset, the unique gift it offers, is the people who make up the congregation and the possibilities for transformation they embody.

When we talk about congregational renewal, we mean a renewal of the people’s ability to notice and experience God in their midst, a renewal of the congregation’s desire to partner with God in achieving God’s aims for the world. The term renewal implies that the congregation knew how to do this at one time and that the work is a reclaiming of a lost skill. We find that’s not always the case. Some congregations we’ve worked with have no memory of ever having been a church that talked openly about God and matters of faith. The people have no memory of the congregation’s ever having had an evangelistic bent. However, we have yet to encounter a congregation

(A Place That Offers Life, continued)

that, when asked to recall moments when its church was really “being church,” couldn’t name sacred moments when God seemed present and people found healing and hope.

The church-growth movement is often blamed for leading congregations down the path of thinking that bigger is better and that increased numbers equal health and growth. That movement did, however, help raise the question of how to measure congregational health. If the measure is not dollars in the bank or people in the pews, what is it? We hear congregations and pastors wrestling with questions that weren’t on the table twenty years ago. “What’s the fundamental purpose of church? What difference is a congregation supposed to make in the lives of its members and in its surrounding community? What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? What does it mean to be spiritual? What difference do spiritual practices make?”

These challenging questions are the foundation of renewal, the building blocks of a new future. They are not, however, the point at which most congregations start. Fear of having to close the church or to reduce the services offered to members typically prompts a congregation’s desire for renewal: “We need to do something now, if we’re going to still be open a decade from now.” This desire to avoid death drives many renewal efforts, and it certainly provides energy. But if the congregation itself doesn’t ultimately trade its fear of death for a longing for life, the efforts will end as soon as the danger has passed.

The aim of renewal is not a bigger building or high-tech worship or a slew of professional programs but a new way of looking at church, the work of a congregation, and what it has to offer the world. Congregational renewal is a renewal of the people’s understanding of their relationship with God, their relationship with their community, and their calling. In the most fundamental sense, congregational renewal happens through “people renewal.” What’s renewed in congregational renewal is the people’s understanding of their relationship with God, their relationship with their community, and their sense of calling.

No pastor, no program, no resource can make renewal happen. On the other hand, almost any pastor, program, or resource can help renewal unfold when the people of a congregation deeply desire a

new and better life and are willing to do what it takes to get there. The hard part can be developing that desire. As long as life together is satisfactory, there is little impetus for change.

Over and over we hear congregations wishing that the people in the community would become active in their church. What drives that desire is revealed in their response to the question “Why?” Any time a significant number of people answer, “To keep our programs running and our doors open,” we know that the congregation is in trouble. It has moved to the point at which the people beyond its doors are valued primarily for what they can bring to the church. People in the community are seen as the congregation’s salvation, rather than the other way around.

Attempting to lure the new population group, the congregational leaders add programs and make changes they imagine will appeal to the people. Surprised and frustrated when their changes show little result, they redouble their efforts to find the right program. This work is misdirected. The congregation is not declining because the community around it has changed, or even primarily because the church’s form of ministry and worship feels foreign to those in the neighborhood. The real and deeper issue is that the congregation has lost connection with a Christian church’s basic mission: helping people experience God and connect with the gospel message of life and hope.

Declining congregations have lost connection with the Christian church’s basic mission of helping people experience God and live the gospel message of life and hope.

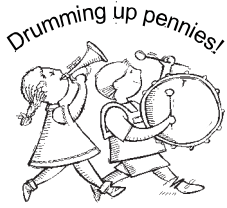
Without this sense of mission to keep the congregation focused beyond the doors of the church, the congregation turns inward and loses connection with its community. Before others will turn to a congregation as a life-giving resource in their lives, the congregation has to be a place that offers life. When traveling by plane, passengers are reminded that in the event of an emergency they should put on their own oxygen masks before helping others. In congregational renewal, a congregation reminds itself of and intentionally engages in the basic practices of Christianity. It realigns itself with the basic outward-focused mission of church.

(<http://www.alban.org/conversation.aspx?id=8160#atabc>)

**United Methodist Women
"Coming Attractions"!**

Calling all children!

The last week of August we will begin to hand out containers for you to decorate as a drum. Decorate it anyway you please. Return it to the church office by October 3rd. The congregation will begin voting for the best drum on Sunday, October 11th and continuing for the rest of the month. The child with the most votes (1 penny per vote) will be the winner. The winner will be announced at the Thank Offering Dinner in November.



Mugs and Muffins

On September 5th Mary Klaus will be our speaker for Mugs and Muffins. Mary has been back to the Sudan since she last shared with us. Bring your mug and a friend or two and join us at 10:00 AM.



The October Mugs and Muffins will be held on October 17th at 10 AM. Our speaker will be Bekah Wilcox.

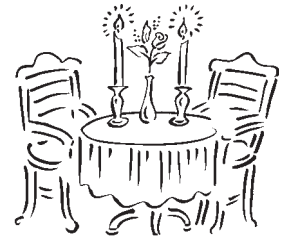
Annual Day



Harrisburg District Annual Day will be held on September 19th from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the Calvary UM Church in Wiconisco. The cost of this day will be \$7.00 which includes lunch. The speaker will be Pastor John Rauch. Pastor Rauch's topic is Mission to Sudan. We can meet at church and carpool. Contact Donna or Wanda if you would like to attend.

Women's Annual Meeting

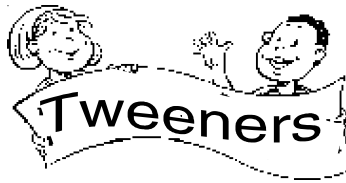
All ladies are invited to attend the Central PA Conference United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 24th, from 9 AM to 2 PM at Pine Street UMC in Williamsport, PA. This year's theme is "Who's at Your Table?" and will feature a variety of workshops. The registration fee, which includes lunch, is \$13. The deadline to register is October 14th. If you would like to go, and want to carpool, contact Wanda Jacobs, at 939-2993 or buddy.beetle@verizon.net. She is planning to attend. See the bulletin board outside the church office for a registration form which lists the selection of workshops.



Yard Sale



The Faith Seekers Class will sponsor a Yard Sale/Craft Fair on Saturday, September 12th. It will be from 8 AM until Noon, rain or shine. If you have questions or would like to rent a space for \$10, contact Wanda Jacobs at 939-2993 or buddy.beetle@verizon.net. If you have yard sale items that you would like to donate to the Faith Seekers Class, bring them to Rooms 110-112 after September 1st.




Tweeners is an organization in our church for kids in 3rd through 5th grades. It gives them a great opportunity to hang out with their peers and enjoy good clean Christian fun. Most of the children attending come from our own church, but kids from our community, who do not attend our church, are always welcomed. Many times our Tweeners will bring guests. Over the years, some of the guests have started attending our Sunday School Class because they came to Tweener events. Our goals include having fun as well as helping the children grow spiritually and encouraging their involvement in some Christian service activities.

We are planning an active Fall and Winter agenda. In the past, this has been the time of year when the kids were less busy with school, sports and other events. That makes it easier to schedule things that most of the kids can attend. Below is a list of activities planned for September and October. If unforeseen things cause us to change something, we will inform the parents and Tweeners as soon as possible.

September 2

We will have a fund-raiser for the CROP Walk at the Friendly's Restaurant at the High Pointe Commons, on Wednesday September 2nd, between 4:00 and 9:00 PM.



Please help us make this evening a success. CROP will receive 10% of all sales that evening

September 13

This will be our kick-off to the Tweener year. Immediately after Sunday School at 10:15 AM, we will go to the Quaker Race Day Use Area of Pinchot Park. There we will have a time of worship, lunch, games, swimming, fishing or whatever the kids choose to do. After stopping for ice cream, we will arrive back home in mid to late afternoon.



September 27

The Tweeners will head to Elysburg for an afternoon of fun at Knoebels Amusement Resort. We will have a worship service for the kids following Sunday School, go to McDonald's and then go directly to the park, which is "pay as you go". We will arrive home in early evening. Next to the Spring sleep over, this is the Tweener activity the kids seem to look forward to the most.



October 18

**CROP Walk for Hunger
Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty**



On Sunday, October 18th, 2009 Chambers Hill United Methodist Church will once again participate in the CROP Walk. Our children, youth and many adults walk around City Island and along Front Street in Harrisburg to raise money to fight poverty throughout the world. In our own community there are several hunger-related programs that benefit from this effort. They include: The Ecumenical Food Pantry, Downtown Daily Bread, Harrisburg Uptown UM Ministry Soup Kitchen, Antioch Food Pantry, Harris Street UM Loaves of Love and several others. To find out what CROP is doing in other countries, visit their website at www.churchworldservice.org. If you would like to know more about joining our church on the walk, contact Roy Jacobs at 939-2993 or e-mail him at buddybeedle@verizon.com.



All Tweener events follow the "Safe Sanctuary" policies. Our leaders this year are Amy Hoffman, Roy Jacobs, and Allison Kuhn. Sometimes we need adults to help us with certain events. If you would like to be a part of the good times, please call Roy Jacobs at 939-2993.

“And the survey says...”



Can We Help? Are You Interested? There are survey forms in the church Welcome Area for your input. Are you interested in a Support Group, a Pre-School/After School program or a personal development course? Perhaps cooking, crafts, car fix-it tips, cake decorating, house fix-it tips or CPR training interest you. Maybe you have something else in mind. There is space there for you to put in your own ideas as well. Please fill out the survey and place it in the basket or return it to the Church office. If enough interest is shown, we will do our best to see the service is provided. If you have questions, please contact Becky Bittering at 564-4357.

Clothing Bank opening soon



Chambers Hill is opening a free Clothing Bank with clothing available for children thru adults. It will open on September 14th. Any one that needs clothes before that date please contact Amy Hoffman at 512-1218. The Clothing Bank will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM until 12 noon or call for appointment at the number above.



Anyone wishing to donate clean, ready-to-wear clothing may put them in the Welcome Area. Please be sure to label them “Clothing Bank” so they are not mixed up with other donations.

Food Bank

Each month we are focusing on two or three food items for our Food Pantry collection.

- September: Instant potatoes, stuffing mix and rice/rice side meals
- October: Cake mixes, frosting and muffin mixes (using water only)
- November: Spaghetti sauce, pasta/pasta side meals, canned tomatoes (diced, stewed or whole) and macaroni & cheese



All contributions are very much appreciated. Thanks for making this ministry a success in helping the needy families in our community.

And there is more!!



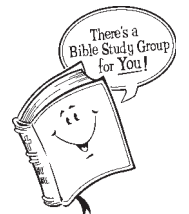
Choir rehearsal will begin on Thursday, September 24th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. All interested singers should plan to attend! Any questions, please call Steph Pomraning at 564-5164.



The Men's Breakfasts will be on held September 12th and October 10th, at 8 AM at the Capitol Diner. All men are welcome to join in the time of devotion, fellowship and good food. Come on out and bring a friend. Hope to see you there! Questions, just give Larry Bittering a call.

Small Group Bible Studies Available

Are you in Interested in studying about Patience? Come join us for a look at scripture from both the Old and New Testaments. We will be learning that the Bible tells us patience is worth the wait. We meet every other Tuesday evening at 7 PM in the Phoenix Room. This new study will start on August 25th. Won't you come join us? Sessions are led by Larry and Becky Bittering



Need refreshment? Join a new In-Home Bible study held at the Kerr home every Thursday at 6:30 PM. Join together as Women of Faith and dig deeper into the Word of God. The current study titled Simply Relevant-HeartSpa will run through September 10th. We will begin another Women's study yet to be determined on Sept. 17th. This study is geared week by week so don't let missing a week keep you away. All CHUMC women are invited to attend. Enjoy a time of God's refreshment and renewal. Weather permitting, the study will be pool or patio side so dress to be comfortable, take a dip or just dip your toes...There is no preparation or study guide needed but plenty of Word to dig into for discussion. So Bring Your Bible.

For more information: contact Tammy Kerr 571-2341, 740 Chaucer Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111



Our first Community Night is scheduled for September 11th, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. The purpose of this event is to open up to the neighbors of the church. Each month we will be showing a movie and offer light refreshments.

Our first showing will be "Get 'Em While They're Hot". This will be an evening of comedy routines featuring: Ken Davis, David Dean, John Branyan, Bean & Bailey and ventriloquist David Pendleton. This was video taped at Shadow Mountain Community Church in San Diego. Nursery will be provided.

Most of these movies will be family nights, with most shows geared for the younger children.

In October, we will show "Cars" which is an animated movie about a racing car and In November we plan to show the adult movie "Fireproof". This is a movie geared for married couples. We showed this movie last Fall.

Fall Breakfast



**Sunday, September 6
9:15 AM**

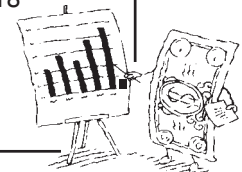
Multi-purpose room

Please sign up to bring your favorite breakfast food. Beverages will be provided. This breakfast will be held in lieu of Sunday School for just this week. Found out about it too late to sign up? No problem - just come and bring your favorite breakfast item along.

Join with others in our church family. Learn what activities will be coming up in our church this Fall. Hope to see you there!

Seven Month Stewardship Report

	General	Missions	Total
Projected Needs	149,205.00	4,088.00	153,293.00
Received to Date	<u>132,673.82</u>	<u>3,682.00</u>	<u>136,355.82</u>
	-16,531.18	-406.00	-16,937.18



Introducing Freddie

Hi! I'm Freddie, the little field mouse. I've been looking for some place quiet and warm to live during the Fall and Winter. There's a little brick church on the hill. Can't be anyone here except on Sunday - maybe the pastor and secretary during the week, but I can stay out of their sight. There's a man out there clipping hedges and someone mowing the lawn, but that's outside - won't bother me at all. Looks promising!

Oops! What's happening? There are kids, teachers and helpers everywhere. Crocodiles and swamp critters - I'd better hide!

Ah, all quiet again. This is going to be OK after all.

Wrong...there are humans with paint brushes and rollers, about a half-dozen of them. Outside there is someone painting the entry way and staining that tired old bench.

I smell food...checking out the kitchen. There are humans down here making sandwiches, but not for me. Something called the Neighborhood Center or a Work Camp. I'll sneak in later and get some crumbs before that lady with the mop gets in here.

You know a mouse could get hurt around here. A lovely lady carrying backpacks out to her car nearly stepped on me - and that man with the broom! He pulled up the carpet on the porch and now he's sweeping up the mess. I had to scurry away before he got me!

The other day a man was smearing some kind of smelly goo on the pastor's driveway. I guess that was alright. No one yelled at him. I'm glad I didn't get in his way! Men and women are always fixing things and delivering things to help others. I even spied them working in and around the house next door and across the street. They are so kind, maybe they will even throw me a crumb or two.

I guess it's not so quiet around here after all. I met a nice lady named Miss Jackie and she said all those humans are what she calls "volunteers" and there are lots more of them and they do a lot more things than I saw. Some even gave money to the church to buy paint and a rug and some other stuff. Wow! She also said that if any other humans want to call her she would be glad to direct them to other projects around the church that could be done.

Noisy or not, I think I'll stay. These "volunteers" are really nice and they seem to be enjoying what they are doing.

Freddie the Church Mouse



It's new - and coming soon!

On Sunday, October 4th, Searchlight will add "Kids' Connection". During the sermon, children will have the opportunity to go to a classroom down the hall and hear a message on their level. Safe Sanctuary policies will be followed as many have volunteered to help make this ministry for children possible. Recently, a "Song 4 Kids" led by J.T. and the Searchlight worship team has been added each Sunday. These songs have delighted the kids and have touched the child within all who have been present.



Mission Central Hosts Marketplace and Ministries

On Saturday, October 3rd, from 9 AM until Noon, the 2nd Annual Marketplace and Ministries will be held "rain or shine" at Mission Central, located at 5 Pleasant View Drive, Mechanicsburg. It will be a unique combination of a yard sale, a mission/ministries fair and more!



Anyone can rent a yard sale space for \$10. All proceeds from rent will be donated to Mission Central. No fee will be charged to mission organizations or ministries who reserve a space to promote their work.

Food stands offering breakfast and lunch items, door prizes, and live music are planned for the event. There will be face painting, balloon animals, and a puppet show for the kids, too.

A mini-health fair area is planned to provide information regarding emergency preparedness and pandemic. Blood pressure checks and flu shots will be available. The Central Pennsylvania Bloodmobile will be on site, too.

Volunteers will be ready to give warehouse tours during the event to familiarize visitors with the work of Mission Central.

Parking will be available in the lot next door, but Handicap Parking will be provided in the Mission Central parking lot.

Contact Wanda Jacobs at 939-2993 or 645-7424 or buddy.beetle@verizon.net for more info or to reserve a space!



Matt and Angela Lutz

Matt and Angela Lutz, who established The Crossing Youth Ministry while serving as missionaries in Pattaya, Thailand, are so thankful for our church's faithful support. It is exciting to hear about what God is doing in a country where there is such a small number of believers. Friday night is a time of worship and Bible study at The Crossing. Some of the original youth, who are now in their mid-twenties, are still coming to worship on Friday nights along with many who are new. A Thai believer named Yo-Yo has begun attending the service. He is an older gentleman who has taught the young men a lot about the Bible and has encouraged Waan, the leader of The Crossing, and others in their walk with the Lord.

Please pray that the Lord continues to use The Crossing Youth Ministry to help others meet, know, and follow Jesus. Pray for the Lord to give Waan boldness to speak when he has opportunities and strength to be faithful in the many responsibilities that he has in this ministry.

Even though Matt and Angela are back in the states, they are totally responsible for the monthly expenses of operating The Crossing. A minimum of \$1,000 a month is needed to support the work financially. If you would like to help The Crossing with a one-time gift or with a monthly donation, please indicate "Thailand-Lutz" on your offering envelope or write it in the memo of your check. Thank you!

John and Kendra Enright

We recently received news from John and Kendra Enright, missionaries serving in Zambia, Africa. They thanked us for our continuing support for the Kafakumba Pastors' School that took place in May and June. There were 24 men and 4 women who graduated this year. Please pray for those who graduated to be a blessing to those they go to serve.



Catherine Weaver

October 29, 1924 - June 29, 2009

Marjorie A. Garland

August 31, 1923 - July 21, 2009

Carl M. Peffly, Sr

September 4, 1921 - July 22, 2009



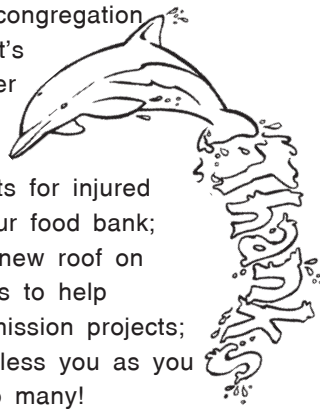
On Sunday, August 2nd, three new members joined our church family during the Searchlight Praise and Worship Service. Please note their names and addresses in your church telephone directory.

Cathy Bekavac
19 Franklin Street
Highspire PA 17034
939-8843

Cindy DeMarco
1137 Pond Road
Harrisburg PA 17111
652-3453

Stephanie DeMarco
1137 Pond Road
Harrisburg PA 17111
652-3453

Just a note to thank our congregation for your generosity... Whether it's lunches for Neighborhood Center or for an urban workcamp; or for kids at Neighborhood Center; T-shirts and sweat pants for injured soldiers or canned goods for our food bank; special offerings to help put a new roof on Mission Central or financial gifts to help sponsor our missionaries and mission projects; the needs are met. May God bless you as you continue to be a blessing to so many!



Throughout June and July, our church was asked to contribute funds to help Mission Central replace its roof. Thanks to your generosity, our church donated over \$700 to this project. In a recent update about the "Raise the Roof" initiative, it was reported that over \$43,000 has been given so far by churches throughout the Central PA Conference. Thanks again for your support of this critical need for Mission Central, the WOW (Warehouse of Wonders)

Morning Star Pregnancy Services expresses deep appreciation to our congregation for our participation in the Baby Bottle Blessing campaign. In returning 87 baby bottles, we donated \$517.59. Every single penny will support the vital life-affirming services offered by Morning Star. Unreturned bottles cost 60 cents each to replace, so please help keep their costs down by returning any bottles you may have to the church office!

Great News Harry Boyanowski

Again you, the members of Chambers Hill Church came through when you were made aware of a need for Literacy Kits for Afghanistan and Iraq school children. We have collected 96 kits for these children. These kits are currently being prepared for shipment.



Every time you are asked to respond to a need, you are right there and often exceed what is expected of you. I know that these children will appreciate you for your caring and maybe come to the realization that we love them and so does our God.

VBS in a "turtle shell"

Another great time was had by all at this year's Crocodile Dock VBS. Over 50 kids sang songs, made crafts, ate great snacks and participated Bible Stories throughout the week. We even made our own video at the direction of Melinda Luciano! A special thanks to all those who helped Allison put together another great program!



The offering collected at this year's Vacation Bible School totaled \$442 and was given to the Cancer Recovery Foundation's Children's Project BEAR-Able Bag Program. In addition, stuffed turtles, made by the children at VBS, were donated. In a letter from the foundation, Rev. Michael Gingerich wrote, "We can assure you that some very special children will benefit from receiving gifts because of your generosity. Every gift certainly brings a smile to a face and encouragement and joy to a young heart. You have become a special part of a nationwide effort to help make dealing with cancer a little easier."



You can make a difference!

As a Contact volunteer, you provide a valuable service to your community. You also receive many benefits, such as new friendships and opportunities for continued learning. The Contact experience will be as rewarding for you as it is for those who reach out for help. If you would to be a Contact volunteer or for more information, please call 652-4987

Birthdays

September



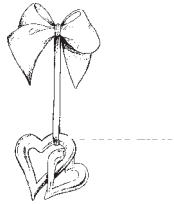
- 4 Stephanie Glessner
Gabriella Colley
- 6 Dorothy Jarrett
Kevin Deckard
Ken Gordon
- 8 Karen Pepperman
Sharon Lingle
- 9 John Durborow
Delbert Rupert
- 19 Evan Kerr
- 20 Kristy Getsay
Jim Kohl
- 21 Susan Peffley
- 22 Lori Kohl
- 23 Elmer Givler
- 24 Lea Antolick
- 26 Amy Still
- 25 Gerry Moyer
- 27 Mindy Fisher
- 29 Kayla Mae Keckler

October

- 2 Terri Luciano
- 3 Dot Lloyd
- 4 Tom Strite
Roy Jarrett
- 5 Sean Fitzkee
- 6 Susan Poticher
Sandra Colley
Bonnie Fitzkee
Bill Pepperman
D J Moyer
- 8 Lona Reilley
- 9 Sue Weldon
Mason Mullen
- 10 Jane Durborow
- 12 Bud Powell
- 13 Joanne Brehm
Dennis Heffner
(Missionary in NM)
P. O. Box 551
Espanola, NM 87532
- 14 Bob Frazier
- 19 Peter Mohn
Elyse Muro
- 20 Eric Bressler
- 22 Emmett Kaylor
- 24 Debbie Frazier
- 25 Barb Bressler
Andy Klose
- 26 Melinda Luciano
- 30 Lon J. Anderson

Anniversaries

- 5 George & Georgine Penyak
- 8 Tom & Sheryl Strite
- 12 Brenda & Willie Barker
- 18 Bill & Karen Pepperman
- 20 John & Wendy Penica
- 25 Jim & Sue Weldon
- 26 Joe & Diane Gassaway
- 27 Ron & Donna Speelman



- 2 Ron & Sara Klose
- 5 Randy & Amy Hoffman
- 10 Brian & Kim Kennedy
- 16 Dave & Sally Buckley
- 19 Brian & Amy Reynolds
- 20 Pastor Steve & Chris Portner
- 23 Ed & Sharon Lingle
- 24 Elmer & Kathryn Givler
- 26 Liam & Emily Cochran

Vision Statement

Chambers Hill United Methodist Church strives to glorify God by becoming a community church; first, through external OUTREACH, locally and globally, particularly to those yet to be bought into a saving relationship with Jesus, then secondly, by internal NURTURE of those already in a faithful and fruit-bearing relationship with Jesus. Our intent is to strengthen ourselves from within so that we may WITNESS with joy to others, equipped to shine like stars, as we hold out the Word of life (Phillippians 2:15-16).

Every member a minister!

Worship Times

Traditional Worship Service - 8:00 AM Sunday School - 9:15 AM Blended Service - 10:30 AM
Searchlight Contemporary Service
Cafe 10:30 AM ~ Praise & Worship 11:11 AM

Stephen G. Portner, Pastor
sgportner@comcast.net
Office Hours
Monday - Thursday mornings
Home Phone 564-2895
Searchlight Worship Leader
J T Elicker III
jtlicker3@aol.com
460-2722.

Carol Brown, Secretary
chumsforjesus@verizon.net
Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Tuesday 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon
Office closed on Friday

Prayer Chain
Anna Baldwin - 657-7057
Card/Sunshine Ministry
Dot Lloyd - 561-4108
JoeDot.2@netzero.net
Newsletter Editor
Thais Gries
candtgries@peoplepc.com

We believe in one God of three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe in God the Father, who loves all He created. We believe we willfully separate ourselves from God through sin. We believe we need to reconcile ourselves with God yet are unable to do that on our own. We believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ, who came to save us by taking our sin upon Himself. We believe Jesus died on the cross, so that the power of our sin died with Him. We believe, through what Jesus has done for us, we may repent and accept forgiveness of our sin. We believe Jesus rose again from the dead, so that all who believe in Him would also have everlasting life. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who sustains us until Jesus comes again. We believe we are equipped by the Holy Spirit to serve God and others for God's glory.



We value being CHRIST-centered:
Helping people meet Jesus through:
Caring outreach
Humble service
Relational love
Inspirational worship
Spiritual accountability
Training disciples

Values

Helping others to meet, know,
and follow Jesus Christ,
the Good Shepherd

Mission

CHAMBERS HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
6300 CHAMBERS HILL ROAD
HARRISBURG, PA 17111



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