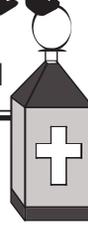


# The Lantern

OCTOBER 2013

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST<sup>d</sup> 1812



## 15th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving

We will begin our food collection for this annual event on October 24 and conclude it on November 17 when we will join our brothers and sisters from Christ Episcopal Church, Beth Emeth Synagogue and the Sikh Center of Delaware at 4:30 p.m. to prepare the baskets and enjoy a potluck supper together.

In the past, an average of twenty bags each have been distributed to no less than eight organizations. Mt. Lebanon has asked that baskets be given to the Neighborhood House in Southbridge for distribution to families in the local neighborhood and that extra food items be given to the Food Closet at Brandywine Community UMC.

More information on how you can help with this initiative will be available in Fellowship Hall very soon.



## Special Offering: October 6, 2013 Worldwide Communion Sunday

This special offering taken the first Sunday of October each year provides funds for racial- and ethnic-minority scholarships related to the mission of the United Methodist Church. The origin of this special offering is traced back to 1940 when the Federal Council of Churches in America established Worldwide Communion Sunday as a global interdenominational event. This annual offering is currently focused on ethnic minority persons pursuing various avenues of ministry.



## Wednesday Morning Bible Study: "The Way"

Throughout the fall, a powerful study by Rev. Adam Hamilton will be offered at our Wednesday morning Bible study, each week at 10am. With a study book and video presentation, we will be led through the land and practice of Jesus' ministry. Each week we share in a time of prayer and study together as we seek to draw closer to Christ and follow in his footsteps. We hope you will join us and bring a friend!

## Thurs. Evening Small Group Study: "Weird" Christians Meeting @ 7pm

We would like to share with you a Thursday night Bible Study group that has become a powerful time of fellowship in the Holy Spirit.

Our current study is entitled "Weird: Because Normal Isn't Working" by Rev. Craig Groeschel. Groeschel's views and discussion with other small group members will hopefully help you break free from the norm to lead a radically abnormal (and endlessly more fulfilling) life in Christ, strengthening your relationships with others and with God.

We meet at church Thursdays at 7pm and all are welcome. You don't have to attend all of the meetings, and you can jump in at any time! Join us as we work together to become fully devoted followers of Christ through a solid foundation and loving interactions.

## SAVE THE DATES!

**Saturday, Nov. 9, 5-7:30pm** – Dinner and Silent Auction

**Sunday, Nov. 17, 4-6:30pm** – Interfaith Thanksgiving Food Basket Project at Christ Episcopal Church, held in conjunction with Beth Emeth Synagogue, Christ Episcopal and The Sikh Center of Delaware.

**Saturday, Dec. 7 at 5pm** – Ronald McDonald House Dinner

**Saturday, Dec. 14** – Angel Tree Christmas Party in the morning and Family Promise Dinner in the evening.

**Sunday, Dec. 15** – Christmas Advent Event, organized by Maxcy Page Hanby & family

## Budget Update (Aug. 25 - Sept. 22)

We have continued to fall behind in financial support for our church. **Year-to-date (YTD) we have a shortfall in income of approximately \$25,650, which averages out to \$2,850/month.** With our worsening financial situation we could soon be in a precarious position where we do not have the cash flow (i.e. money in the bank account) to support our operating budget.

Mt Lebanon's operating expenses consists of approx. 63% staff compensation, 17% building and grounds (heating, air conditioning, electricity, supplies and maintenance), and 10% apportionments. The remaining 10% is distributed across the various committees/activities (e.g. Christian education, evangelism, administrative, youth ministry, etc). **The good news is that we are keeping our operating expenses slightly below what we budgeted.** Budgeted expenses YTD are \$138,614 versus actual expenses of \$133,307.

**Generous service through Mt Lebanon's mission activities and collections continue to be strong, thanks be to God!** Mt.

Lebanon has given to a variety of mission opportunities totaling ~\$11,122 (YTD). This past month we made contributions to the United Methodist Student Day (\$103), Family Promise (\$30), Emergency Assistance Fund (\$250), the food ministry at Brandywine Community UMC (\$285), Global Service Network (\$170), Shipley Manor (\$32) and the Dominoes Group (\$19).

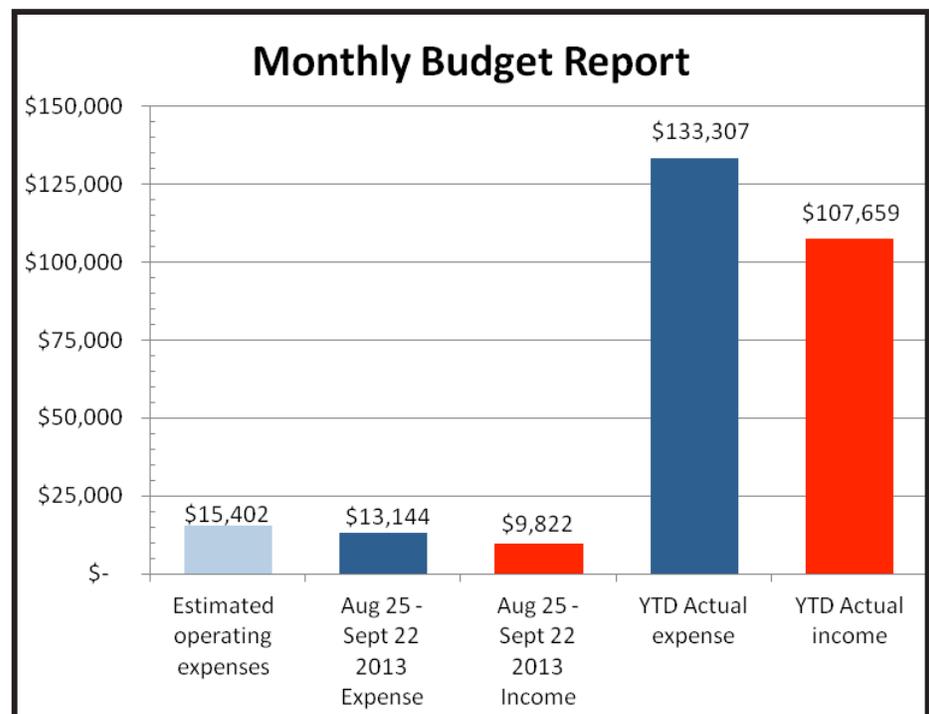
## Trustees Update

**Renovation of the parlor area has been completed.** This project was paid for by a very special contribution made to the church. THANK YOU!

**Renovation of the Pastor's office and administrative area is in the planning stages.** While Pastor Jennifer is away on Study Leave it is the perfect time to have access to her office area to do some much needed work. We're still working on the plan, so if you have ideas and want to be involved please contact Barbara Ewing (302-764-3572 or ewingbj@verizon.net).

**Please help if you can. There are church projects that need to be done before winter!** Our next Trustees' Work Day is October 5 from 9am - noon. We have maintenance and cleaning jobs and small projects (inside and outside) that are needed for the general upkeep of our church facility. All are welcome to come and help out during Saturday workdays; these are not just Trustee committee events. You can contact Barbara Ewing (302-764-3572 or ewingbj@verizon.net) if you have questions or requests.

**Bless you for your commitment to the Good News of Jesus Christ and to this church!**



## Youth News

The past few weeks have been busy for the Youth. This year our Youth Group time will be spent as a Covenant Discipleship Group. Ben Oliva and Becky Byrd, our youth leaders, are very excited to extend this ministry that has been great for so many adults in our congregation to our youth. Over the past few weeks we have been developing our covenant and are now just putting the finishing touches on it.

The youth are also spending time preparing for another puppet presentation, this one in December during Advent. We have picked our play and will soon start rehearsals. If there are youth in the community who want to participate in any of our activities please let Ben or Becky know. Please also be praying for the youth and their leaders.

## Explore the Power of Prayer

We are pleased to welcome back Rev. Jeanell Starling for another interesting session on the power of prayer and developing our prayer lives.

All are welcome to join in on Saturday, October 26 from 10am to 2pm. Rev. Jeanell Starling, from St. Paul's UMC in Milford, will speak on "The Power of Prayer and the Holy Spirit." Lunch will be provided. There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Please strongly consider attending this unique event. We all can learn more about prayer and how to make our prayer lives richer. These four hours are bound to be interesting, thought provoking and inspirational. Join us, won't you?

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Thanks to Janice Harrison

09-20-2013

## Silent Auction Items Needed

On Saturday, November 9 from 5-7:30pm we will be having our annual Spaghetti Dinner, courtesy of the United Methodist Women.

As we have traditionally done, we will also have a silent auction. If you have anything you would like to contribute, please bring it to the church by November 3. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Byrd at rebecca.byrd@gmail.com or 690-4992. Thank you in advance for your help!

## CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."

Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."

A worm welcome to all who have come today.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.

The ushers will come forward and take our ties and offerings.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Let us join David and Lisa in the celebration of their wedding and bring their happiness to a conclusion.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30pm. Please use the back door.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

22 members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

~ From Charles Specht's column at pastors.com

# WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Beginning in October and continuing through December, Pastor Karen Covey Moore will lead our worship service on the first and third Sundays during Pastor Jennifer's study leave. We will be blessed to have two of our lay speakers, Tim Page and Jeff Shoemaker, leading the other services in October. A special treat on October 20 will be our Youth Group providing the Children's Message "Highway to Heaven" through their Puppet Ministry.

## Sunday, October 6

Isaiah 25:6-9

Matthew 22:1-10

Sermon: A Feast for All Peoples

## Sunday, October 13

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Psalms 66:1-12

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

Lay Speaker: Jeff Shoemaker

## Sunday, October 20

Jeremiah 31:31-34

2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

Luke 18:1-8

Sermon: Persistent Faith

Youth Puppet Ministry

## Sunday, October 27

Joel 2:23-32

Psalms 65

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

Lay Speaker: Tim Page

## Upcoming Worship Services

11/3 Communion and All Saints Sunday (Pastor Karen)

11/10 Board of Ordained Ministry Sunday with Wendy Owen

11/17 Sermon: What We Do Know (Pastor Karen)

11/24 UMM "Men of the Mount" Service

## Readers

10/6 Tracy Hopkins

10/13 Chris Portante

10/20 Rebecca Byrd

10/27 TBD

## Fellowship

10/6 Tracy Hopkins

10/13 TBD

10/20 Barbara Ewing & Kathy Neilson

10/27 TBD

## Ushers

10/6 Ann Brechtel & Marilyn Hetrick

10/13 Ann Brechtel & Marilyn Hetrick

10/20 Bob & Claudia Lathem

10/27 Bob & Claudia Lathem

## Altar Guild

10/6 Jerry & Sylvia Eubanks

10/13 Harry & Joanne West

10/20 Ann Brechtel & Marilyn Hetrick

10/27 Iva Boardman & Gale Ziegler

## Fellowship Hour Helpers needed now!

Sign up sheets are available in Fellowship Hall. Fellowship treats are best kept simple, and they need not be expensive.

In addition, there's always someone available to help you with set-up and clean-up.

Thank you for considering contributing to a very important ministry that helps bring our members and visitors closer together in food and fellowship.



# October

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>1</b> Domino Group 10am Prayer & Praise 7pm Shipley Bible 7pm Trustees Mtg. 7pm	<b>2</b> Bible Study 10am NA Group 8pm	<b>3</b> Imagine the Future 7pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> UMW District Mtg. 9am-12pm Children's Missions Project 2-4pm Family Promise Dinner at 5:30pm- Aldersgate
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Painting Class 1pm	<b>8</b> Domino Group 10am Prayer & Praise 7pm Shipley Bible 7pm	<b>9</b> Bible Study 10am Charge Conf. 7pm NA Group 8pm	<b>10</b> Growing in Faith 7pm	<b>11</b> Food Closet @ BCC 9am-noon	<b>12</b> The Well Training @ Grace UMC Wilim. 8:30am-3:30pm
<b>13</b> Emmaus Reunion 1:00pm	<b>14</b> Admin Council 7pm	<b>15</b> Domino Group 10am Prayer & Praise 7pm Shipley Bible 7pm	<b>16</b> Bible Study 10am NA Group 8pm	<b>17</b> Nurture Mtg. 10am Growing in Faith 7pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> UMW Meeting 11am	<b>22</b> Domino Group 10am Prayer & Praise 7pm Shipley Bible 7pm	<b>23</b> Bible Study 10am NA Group 8pm	<b>24</b> Growing in Faith 7pm	<b>25</b> Food Closet @ BCC 9am-noon	<b>26</b> Prayer Retreat 10am-2pm
<b>27</b> Interfaith Thanksgiving Collections begins	<b>28</b> Missions Team Mtg 7pm	<b>29</b> Domino Group 10am Prayer & Praise 7pm Shipley Bible 7pm	<b>30</b> Bible Study 10am NA Group 8pm	<b>31</b>	<b>2013</b>	

# *Reflections from Lay Leadership...*

As we complete the first month of Pastor Jennifer's absence, it seems appropriate to thank God for each of you who has continued, but at an accelerated pace, to make sure that we are faithful in our worship and service to God. The journey of growth and accountability that our congregation here at Mt. Lebanon is on is one that we can only do as a village. While there have been certain individuals charged with specific areas of oversight, the truth is that we are in this together. The comforting news is that we are far from alone. Our Heavenly Father, Savior Jesus and the Holy Spirit are walking every step of this journey with each of us. We are comforted by the fact that all things are possible with God.

There are times when God's will and timeline are different than that established by our individual wills and timelines. I am convinced that we as a congregation are ready to worship and serve God with love and grace at a level that we could not have several years ago without Pastor Jennifer. What a comfort it is to know that God worked through Pastor Jennifer to get us ready for this journey and here we are! May each of us continue to step up in whatever areas we are involved to be the very best that we can be for God. May we love and nurture each other, be engaged and participative in all that we do and grow in our individual as well as church family relationship with God.

John Wesley taught us to do no harm, do all the good that we can and observe God's ordinances. Just think of how much of God's work and witness of Jesus occur when we live by such direction. How blessed we are to have Jesus as our Savior and to be part of a loving and caring church family. I invite you to pray for Pastor Jennifer and her family, for Pastor Karen Covey Moore who will be joining us for two services each month beginning in October through December, and for each other. May our commitment and service to God grow during these next months as a way of showing our gratitude for all that we have. May our passion to live as Jesus taught us be at a new high. Let us not hold back, but rather be bold with service, witness and love for all of God's children.

Blessings,  
Iva Boardman, Co-Lay Leader

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## **MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.