

The Lantern

JULY/AUGUST 2014

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



Habitat for Humanity — July 7-11

Mt. Lebanon will host another group for Habitat for Humanity in July. This will be the first the time we will host youth from 15-18 years of age. There will be sixteen in this group from St. Mary's in Rhode Island.

The mission team cordially invites everyone to meet, greet and have fellowship at a dinner on Wednesday, July 9 followed by Prayer and Praise to hear about these young people's stories.

There is always a opportunity to volunteer for Habitat at the worksites or at the Resale shop. If you are interested, please contact Bob Lathem at 798-3170.

A Visit to "Sight and Sound" for Moses

Members and friends of Mt. Lebanon are planning to go to Sight and Sound Theatres in Lancaster to see *Moses*.

Journey back through time and relive the golden splendor and pride of ancient Egypt, the poverty and oppression of the Hebrew slaves and the humble, broken man that God raised up to become their deliverer. Not only will you be completely immersed in the spectacular, epic events of the story, but you will experience the humanity of Moses and the children of Israel as they struggle for faith, freedom and belonging. This incredible adventure is like none other for this is when God breaks into history and reveals who He is and that He has come to heal the brokenhearted and set the captives free!

We are discussing going in mid- to late-July on a weekday for a 2:45pm show, probably on a Tuesday or Wednesday. We would car pool from church. The cost is \$49.25 a person if we have more than 15 people. Financial assistance may be available. Keep your eyes open for more info. If interested, please contact Bob Lathem at 798-3170

Please Be Careful! *Construction Underway*

Thanks to the kind efforts of our neighbor Jim Thomen, the steps to the church office and Pastor's study will be under construction and replacement beginning Thursday, July 10 to address safety concerns. Please use all caution when attempting to enter the office/study rooms.

Back-to-School Rally — August 16

Help kids start the school year right! Sunday Breakfast Mission will hold its 12th Back to School Rally on Saturday, August 16, beginning at 10am. We will launch our collection at Mt. Lebanon on July 20. The following items are needed:

Backpacks - children and youth	Crayons (24-pack)
Pocket folders	Pencil cases
Scissors, blunt and sharp	Pencils
Wide-ruled spiral notebooks	Sharpeners
Collegeruled spiral notebooks	Glue sticks
Three-ring binders	Washable markers
Erasers	Tissues
Pens	Colored Pencils
Wide- and college-ruled paper	Rulers

Thank you for any and all items that you can donate for the children. Volunteers are also needed to help at the Rally. Please see or call Iva Boardman or Bob Lathem for more information.

Prayers of Sympathy

We offer our prayers of sympathy to Jack Owens and family on the death of our beloved sister in Christ, Nancie Owens, who passed to life eternal on Friday, June 20. Funeral services and a lovely after-service luncheon was held here at Mt. Lebanon on Tuesday, June 24 with literally hundreds attending the visitation and service itself. Nancie was baptized here at Mt. Lebanon in 1939 and formally became a member in 1952, though she was active at Mt. Lebanon throughout her entire life. There are no words to describe how we will miss this wonderful grace-filled lady who always had a word of good cheer and encouragement. We pray God's blessings especially on her beloved husband Jack, with whom she shared 59 years of marriage, and on daughters Dawn and Christie (and husband David) as well as grandchildren, Corey, Lindsay, Lexie and Joshua. Cards may be sent to the Jack at their home, 2015 Longcome Drive, Wilmington, DE 19810.

CONAM Corner

The ongoing debate, struggle and legal and moral debate over the Washington professional football team's use of name "Redskins" has been in the news a lot. The most recent development has been the decision by the United States Patent and Trademark Office to cancel the team's six federal trademark registrations, ruling that the name is "disparaging to Native Americans" and thus cannot be trademarked under federal law that prohibits the protection of offensive or disparaging language. Since that ruling, various news and media outlets have made the decision to no longer use the term in their sports coverage acknowledging the ongoing inappropriateness of the term and its continued power to dishonor and hurt Native people.

There are some people, including some Native Americans, who will argue that attention to this particular issue is unnecessary and actually distracting of other, more pressing issues of justice facing the Native American community. If you take the time to research the economic injustices and ongoing treaty violations occurring in real time here and now throughout our nation, you may come to that same conclusion (check out online the documentary "American Outrage" for one such example.) At the same time, a powerful argument can be made for the long-term hurtful impact on Native people's consciousness, especially the impressionable minds and hearts of Native children and youth, who cannot help but see and receive the implicit and explicit acceptance of negative, degrading references to Native people.

It's important to be clear that the term "redskin" comes from the extensive historically documented practice of bounty payments made by government entities and individuals for the delivery of dead and/or mutilated Native person's bodies. The practice began with the British before the Revolutionary War and continued by the US government up through the late 1800's. In California, during the great Gold Rush of the 1850's, the bounty paid jumped from \$0.25 to \$5.00 within a two year time frame for any Native body, no matter the age or gender of the victim. The term is comparable to the use of the "N-word" for many African Americans and few, if any people of compassion would be willing to fight this hard and this long over keeping that word in the public arena as has been the case with this struggle with this pro-football team.

Perhaps you don't have strong feelings about the issue one way or another; but if you knew that your friends were hurting and outraged by such blatant disregard for their history and their honor, I would hope that you might take a second look and be willing to reconsider the need to take a stand on their behalf.

Mental Health Ministries

by Rev. Constance Hastings, MSCC, NCC
Daybreak Counseling Services, Inc.

You may be living with mental illness or have a loved one who struggles with one of the various forms of the disease. You have much experience with the medical community and have seen therapists and psychiatrists, support groups and peer groups, inpatient and outpatient programs. Medications are routine, and you know the holistic promises of exercise, full spectrum lighting, and fish oil. But maybe you are not familiar with resources combining faith with good diagnostic information that demonstrates God has not abandoned you on this challenging journey.

Mental Health Ministries is coordinated by the Rev. Susan Gregg Schroeder, United Methodist clergy, who has written about her own experience with severe depression. She works to help remove the stigma against mental illness and educate professionals and congregations alike about the role the faith process can play in treatment and healing. Internet based, her ministry provides a wealth of information that includes educational resources, programs for churches to implement in welcoming those with mental illness, worship resources, inspirational messages and more. Most of the material is free.

Check out *mentalhealthministries.net* especially if you have been wondering if God has forgotten those with mental illness. The hope of Jesus Christ continues to call and reach out to all persons in love.

Daybreak Counseling Services is a nonprofit clinical pastoral counseling agency that not only addresses the presenting issue or problem but also allows for the inclusion of spirituality within sessions. It is supported through payments determined on a sliding scale basis, private grants, and individual donations. Rev. Constance Hastings, a nationally certified counselor and United Methodist deacon, sees clients at St. Paul's and Atonement United Methodist Churches with both day and evening hours. Call 302-745-1042 for information or to make an appointment.

Thursday Evening Prayer & Praise

We will be taking a break for the rest of summer, but will keep you posted once we have a new program/schedule ready.

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Every Sunday in July, we'll gather at 10:15am in the sanctuary to join in a time of singing favorite hymns and praise songs prior to the beginning of service. All are welcome! Bring your love of music and your joy in singing. Sunday, July 6 will highlight God Bless America and the Star Spangled Banner.

Sunday, July 6

Holy Communion

Genesis 24:34-67; Psalm 45

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-30

Sunday, July 13

Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 20

Genesis 28:10-19; Psalm 139

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday, July 27

Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-52

Rev. Derrick Porter on Renewal Leave

Beginning August 16, 2014, Rev. Derrick Porter, District Superintendent, will be embarking on a three-month renewal leave, returning on November 15, 2014. During this time, Rev. Porter will not be available for meetings, and will not be returning emails or telephone calls. The other three District Superintendents of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, however, will be providing rotational supervisory coverage for Rev. Porter during his leave. In the event of a situation requiring the advice or intervention of a District Superintendent, please contact the District Office to be connected with another District Superintendent who can provide assistance. Please keep our District Superintendent, Rev. Porter in your thoughts and prayers that God would speak to his heart, mind and soul during this time. We here at Mt. Lebanon know a little something about renewal leaves and how important they can be!

Pastor Jennifer Away in August / Update on Mom and Me!

Thank you so very much for your ongoing prayers and good wishes in our continued work of preparing to move my mother from South Texas to Delaware this summer. The addition at the house is coming along beautifully and we hope to have it completed by mid-July. My sister and I will travel to Texas the first half of August to help her complete the sorting and packing process and then Mom and I will fly home while the movers transport her things.

I will be out of the office from Wednesday, Aug. 6 through Friday, Aug. 22 as we work to get Mom moved and settled. Rev. Tracy Mooney from Peniel UMC will be providing emergency pastoral coverage during my absence. Please call her as needed at the church office, 994-9519 or the parsonage, 998-8165.

Reader:	8/17	Barbara Videtto
Fellowship:	7/13	Iva Boardman, Geri Walker
Altar Guild:	7/6	Jerry & Sylvia Eubanks
	7/13	Iva Boardman, Gale Ziegler
	7/20	Ann Brechtel, Marilyn Hetrick
	7/27	Laurence Birkett, Tracy Hopkins
	8/3	Harry West, Julia Tulloch
	8/10	Jerry & Sylvia Eubanks
	8/17	Iva Boardman, Gale Ziegler
	8/24	Ann Brechtel, Marilyn Hetrick
Ushers:	7/6	Chris Portante, Becky Byrd
	7/13	Chris Portante, Becky Byrd
	7/20	Helen Brown, Kay Frick
	7/27	Helen Brown, Kay Frick
	8/3	Donna Peterson, Tracy Hopkins
	8/10	Donna Peterson, Tracy Hopkins
	8/17	Harry West, Tracy Hopkins
	8/24	Harry West, Tracy Hopkins

July

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5:00pm	2 Bible Study 10am CD Group 5:30pm N.A. Group 8 pm	3 Growing in Faith 7pm	4 Office closed-July 4 Holiday	5
6 Holy Communion Shipley Worship 2pm	7 Painting Class 1pm	8 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5:00pm Trustees Mtg. 7pm	9 Bible Study 10am CD Group 5:30pm N.A. Group 8 pm	10 Growing in Faith 7pm	11 Food Closet @ BCC 9am-noon	12 All Church Work Day 9am-noon
13 Emmaus 1pm	14 Painting Class 1pm Admin Council 7pm	15 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5:00pm	16 Bible Study 10am CD Group 5:30pm N.A. Group 8 pm	17 Growing in Faith 7pm	18	19
20 Shipley Worship 2pm	21 Painting Class 1pm	22 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5:00pm	23 Bible Study 10am CD Group 5:30pm N.A. Group 8 pm	24 Growing in Faith 7pm	25 Food Closet @ BCC 9am-noon	26 Family Promise Dinner 5:30pm
27	28 Painting Class 1pm Missions Mtg 7pm	29 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5:00pm	30 Bible Study 10am CD Group 5:30pm N.A. Group 8 pm	31 Growing in Faith 7pm		

2014

August

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3 Holy Communion Shipley Worship 2pm	4 Painting Class 1pm	5 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5:00pm Trustees Meeting 7pm	6 CD Group 5:30pm NA Meeting 8pm	7 Growing in Faith 7pm	8 Food Closet @ BCC 9am-noon	9 All Church Work Day 9am-noon
10	11 Painting Class 1pm Admin Council 7pm	12 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5:00pm	13 CD Group 5:30pm	14 Growing in Faith 7pm	15	16
17 Shipley Worship 2pm	18 Painting Class 1pm	19 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5:00pm	20 CD Group 5:30pm	21 Growing in Faith 7pm	22 Food Closet @ BCC 9am-noon	23 RMH Dinner 5:30pm
24	25 Painting Class 1pm Missions Team 7pm	26 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5:00pm	27 CD Group 5:30pm	28 Growing in Faith 7pm	29	30
31						

2014

Reflections...

It may be that you, like many in our congregation, are feeling overwhelmed by the losses we are experiencing in our church family. So many precious saints have passed to eternal glory in these last several months. Many others, whom we counted as friends and family in Christ, have moved on to other congregations or simply moved on. On Sunday mornings, our worship attendance seems to be slim at best. All of this taken together can lead to discouragement of the heart and doubts in the mind. It seems as though we are traveling through a wilderness time with no clear sense of the promised land ahead.

After much dedicated prayer these last several months, I have come to believe that our church is being tested and that we are, in fact, standing on a threshold of sorts. We have come a long road together these last many years, healing and growing in the knowledge and guidance of the Holy Spirit's leading and promptings. We have made a significant culture shift from what we were and now have a better sense of who we are; remember our new purpose statement? Through God's grace, Mt. Lebanon is a welcoming, caring, accepting and praying church family passionate about Christian discipleship and generous service. Now we find ourselves uneasy because we don't yet have a clear vision for moving forward. We may be tempted to rush ahead to do something just for the sake of doing something. I believe that this is exactly the wrong path to take. I believe that God has given us this wilderness time to grieve what we have lost so that we might discover more clearly the strength God has given us to move into the future. I believe threshold times are important times to draw closer to the Holy Spirit.

Our oldest daughter was blessed to have some vacation time traveling in California this summer and ended up spending several days in Yosemite National Park. On reading through the material she brought home, I was struck by the realization that came to the Park Service after they had mistakenly spent much time and effort in preventing forest fires especially in the giant Sequoia groves. It turns out that fire is exactly what the Sequoia cones need to release the seeds to provide the next generation of great trees. Like the fire at work in the Sequoia groves, I trust that God is doing a great work within us. For now, we can rest in the loving arms of our Lord and Savior, trusting that the next steps will become clear in the days ahead. Let's hold on to the Teacher's advice in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and the Lord will make straight your paths."

Pastor Jennifer Kerby

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.