

The Lantern

OCTOBER 2014

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



Spiritual Gifts Workshop and Retreat Saturday, October 25, 10am-2pm

*Have you ever had an inkling that there was
a special ministry waiting for you?*

*Did you ever think about trying your hand at something
completely new but were afraid you just weren't ready?*

*Do you know where you fit into the
larger body of Christ, the church?*

One of the greatest scriptural truths is that God equips those who are called to serve in differing capacities in the church. Recently, we printed in the Sunday bulletin that wonderful listing of how God used all sorts of people throughout Bible history to fulfill the divine will ... Moses stammered and yet became a great prophet; Rahab was a prostitute and yet became a hero to the Hebrews seeking entrance to the promised land; David was an adulterer and murderer and yet became the greatest king over Israel. The good humored listing ends up with the observation that God even used Balaam's donkey for fulfilling God's purposes so God can certainly use each of us!

Hebrews 13:21 offers up the prayer that God will make us complete (equip us) in everything good so that we may do God's will, working among us that which is pleasing in God's sight, through Jesus Christ. Learning about how the Holy Spirit equips each of us with spiritual gifts can become like a light bulb as we learn to discern the differences between natural gifts and talents, professional or work skills and abilities and the spiritually endowed gifts given by God with the specific intention of building up and equipping the body of Christ – that means us, the church!

On Saturday, October 25, Mt. Lebanon will host a Spiritual Gifts Workshop and Retreat to complement our Sunday worship service focus on Spiritual Gifts. Each participant will have the chance to complete an in-depth Spiritual Gifts assessment and then look at ways those gifts might be utilized for building God's kingdom here on earth. Lunch will be provided as well as all materials needed for the day. Please sign-up on the Info Table in the hall no later than Oct. 19 so we can prepare for the day. — *Pastor Jennifer Kerby*

Important Dates

See more information throughout this issue.

- Oct. 3 — Prayer & Fasting
- Oct. 4 — Family Promise Dinner
- Oct. 11 — "The Well" Training
- Oct. 12 — Prayer & Fasting
- Oct. 18 — All-Church Work Day
- Oct. 25 — Spiritual Gifts Workshop & Retreat
- Nov. 15 — Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction

A Very Successful Car Wash

Some said we were crazy to hold a car wash "rain or shine." In our faithfulness, we pushed ahead and had one of the sunniest, warmest September days anyone could hope for. Praise God! Fliers had been distributed throughout surrounding neighborhoods and to friends and family. We also had lively advertising on Sharpley and Mt. Lebanon Roads. Both efforts brought in nearly twenty cars and over \$200 for Family Promise of Northern New Castle County. We also collected bags of clothing for the Clothing Closet at Brandywine Community Church. While cars were being washed, their owners were welcomed into Bambarly Hall for some homemade cookies and lemonade. It was a great morning all around. Thank you to all who made for such a successful and fun event! — *Chris Portante*

Youth on the Move!

We are so excited to see our growing Youth Group combine with the youth of Chester-Bethel UMC for the upcoming year. September saw the first of our joint Sunday afternoon youth groups, a very "uplifting" Kick-Off event at Camp Pecometh's Challenge Course, as well as an afternoon hearing about the upcoming Youth Rally theme of "Masterpiece" and celebrating "Coconut Communion" together (you can ask Ford or Eric about that one if you're curious!). Future activities are now being planned. Please make sure to keep youth leaders Julia Tulloch and Gale Ziegler in your prayers as they seek to be faithful to helping our youth grow in God's grace and servant leadership. — *Pastor Jennifer Kerby*

CONAM* Corner



What a joy it was to attend this year's Nanticoke Indian Pow-Wow held in Millsboro, Del. the weekend of September 6 and 7!

A small but enthusiastic contingent of Mt. Lebanites (consisting of Nikki Davis, Chris Portante and Pastor Jennifer) made the drive down Saturday and spent the day watching and listening to the wonderful sights and sounds of the festivities

The range of tribal ceremonial dress, dances and music was truly impressive as was the intent and purpose of each dance explained before hand and commented on afterwards. The three different drumming groups provided a unique and distinct rhythmic and vocal accompaniment.

I was especially proud to see the honor that was extended to native and non-native active duty, reserve and veteran soldiers, men and women equally, who were invited to join in one dance. As the men and women circled together, it was announced that a 95-year veteran of World War II was in their midst and the entire crowd burst into applause. Senator Tom Carper was in attendance and joined in another dance honoring tribal leaders representing the many different native peoples gathered for the day.

Then of course, there was the food; Indian tacos aplenty, homemade fry bread and succotash as well as American fare like burgers and hot dogs to satisfy every taste. Finally, there were the vendors and native artisans and craftspeople showing their jewelry, woodworking items, paintings, leather goods, games and toys for children and a wide variety of just about anything you might imagine.

It was a wonderful opportunity to immerse ourselves in this vibrant culture where honor and respect, tradition and a celebration of relationships with one another and the land were highlighted in every way.

We hope to see you at next year's Pow-Wow!

— *Pastor Jennifer Kerby*

* Conference Committee on Native American Ministries

Days of Prayer & Fasting to Continue

Your leadership team have discerned the great value of setting aside designated days and times of church-wide prayer and fasting as we continue to seek to follow God's will for our congregation. One day each month is a five-hour time session and the other is a two-hour session. You are asked to fast prior to the sessions in whatever way you can.

October's dates and times are Friday, Oct. 3 from 9am-2pm and Sunday, Oct. 12 from 1-3pm. We'll meet and pray in the sanctuary. The time is largely silent prayer, but also marked by times of singing hymns or praise songs, sharing reflections or meditations and verbal prayer together. Please join in this very special offering to God. — *Pastor Jennifer Kerby*

News from United Methodist Women

Your UMW (United Methodist Women) Group met for our first meeting of the program year on Monday, September 15. We were honored to have Pastor Jennifer in attendance for our first meeting. We devoted our meeting to our three departed sisters, Joanne West, Betty Brechtel, and Nancie Owens both in special prayer and by singing their favorite hymns.

We discussed our menu for the Silent Auction dinner on November 15, agreeing to once again cook our pasta casserole dish and keeping the cost to \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, with children 2 and under admitted for free.

We also voted on several missions which we will contribute to this month. We came up with several speakers we would like to contact to speak at our monthly meetings and will report on them as we go through the year. Finally, we discussed the usual fund raisers to have this year starting including the pretzel sales, bake sales and possibly reaching out to our favorite pizza places for fund nights.

— *Kay Frick, UMW President*

Items Needed for Silent Auction

On November 15, we will again be holding our Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction. All are invited to attend. Bring a friend or a few friends! It is a great time of food, fellowship...and you might go home with some really neat items (and support the church at the same time)!

Without donors of items and services, we will have nothing to auction off, so please consider donating items or soliciting items or services from local vendors that can be auctioned off at the dinner. Please contact Becky Byrd at 690-4992 or rebecca.byrd@gmail.com with questions/auction item donations. — *Chris Portante*

State of the Church Finances

For the past 8 months or so I have been serving as co-chair of the Finance Team (or Committee) along with Amy Furman. As we begin to draw near to the end of the year and the end of the Church's fiscal year, I wanted to give you an update on the church's finances and the activities of the Finance Team.

The bottom line is that the income of the church over the course of a year runs about \$20,000 short of the expenses of the church. And, over the past couple of years that number has remained consistent, which means that our expenses and income have also remained consistent.

When one looks at our budget, there is not really any place to cut. Our main expense is staff costs, mainly our pastor's salary. If we decided to cut the budget to balance it the only place to do that would be in the pastor's salary, which would mean cutting her to part time. For a variety of reasons, the Finance Team and the other leadership of the church are reticent to do that.

The other option, obviously, is to increase income. The Finance Team is always looking for ways to fundraise and increase our income. Over the past eight months, we have discussed the following items and are pursuing them:

- New ways to give (online, credit card payments, automatic withdrawals, etc.)
- Educating our congregation on planned giving and estate management.
- New fundraising events and plans.
- Helping our congregation to better understand what church income pays for.

Despite what is generally a negative financial picture, we do have things for which to be thankful to God. While we do run at a deficit, because of our endowment and certain special gifts, we have been able to pay our bills on time. And, those special gifts have been unexpected gifts from God that have made this year a bit easier.

I have faith that if we do God's work and try and stay faithful to God's plan for our church, he will provide. However, it also important for us as members of a church to financially support our church as we are able. So, I would ask that if you can increase your giving, please do. Also, please encourage others to attend our church to see if they may be willing to support it with their talents and gifts. — *Becky Byrd*

Funny Signs

In a Podiatrist's office:

"Time wounds all heels."

At an Optometrist's Office:

"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

On a Plumber's truck:

"We repair what your husband fixed."

On another Plumber's truck:

"Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

At a Towing company:

"We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."

On an Electrician's truck:

"Let us remove your shorts."

On a Birthing Room door:

"Push. Push. Push."

Outside a Muffler Shop:

"No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room:

"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

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(See Numbers 14)

09-26-2014

OUR SPECIALS OF THE DAY INCLUDE MANNA IN A SMOOTH MANNA REDUCTION AS WELL AS TODAY'S FRESHLY COLLECTED MANNA SALAD TOPPED WITH THREE DIFFERENT SIZES OF MANNA AND, FOR DESSERT ... MANNA

Special Invitation for Special Offerings

The Missions Team is offering you a one-time invitation to give to the United Methodist Church's six designated churchwide Special Sunday offerings to emphasize 13 ministries of our church.

Your one-time contribution will be evenly divided among the six areas of ministry listed below.

You should have received an invitation by mail with an enclosed envelope for return either by mail or in any Sunday offering between September 15 and October 31. Please let us know what you think about this change and if you did not receive an invitation.

Human Relations Day to enable community workers to provide services such as food banks, job training and building rehabilitation and advocacy for the poor and oppressed;

One Great Hour of Sharing to underwrite the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which mobilizes a network of volunteers to address critical needs in times of disaster, responds to the needs of the hungry and resettles refugees;

Native American Ministries to help Native American members to establish new congregations, provide job training, childcare and cultural education, and make possible scholarships for Native American students pursuing church related vocations;

Peace with Justice to make possible educational opportunities that build awareness of world peace and social justice and fund work to intervene in cycles of spousal and child abuse and violence among youth;

World Communion Sunday to provide Crusade Scholarships for international and U.S. racial and ethnic minority students to pursue graduate studies in theology, medicine and education, fund scholarships for racial and ethnic minority persons seeking a second career in church-related vocations and support the Ethnic Scholarship Program for undergraduate students; and

United Methodist Student Day to provide graduate and undergraduate scholarships and student loans.

Thank you!

— Missions Team Co-Chairs Iva Boardman & Bob Lathem

Listen to Me

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

If you have ever been in a relationship and felt you just couldn't get through to the person, you may have come to the realization there is a communication problem between the two of you. Yet, the first real step in opening the lines of communication is to keep your mouth shut. The reason for this is unless a person feels he or she is being heard and understood, not much that of what is said between the two of you is going to have an impact.

The process for starting this is called Reflective Listening. It means that instead of listening and immediately thinking what one's response is going to be, be prepared to pause and respond back letting the person know he or she has been heard. Phrases such as, "I really hear you saying that..." or "So as you see it,..." are empathic responses that don't add to or correct the person's perception. Instead, they communicate that he or she is accepted (even if you don't agree with the statement). It is a process that opens the door to expression of one's feelings and thoughts and what may be underlying issues in the discussion.

Such a process is vital to the relationship in feeling valued. Reflective listening honors the listener in feeling understood and allows each person to correct misunderstandings as they occur. Without this foundation, trust is compromised and true intimacy is diluted. Not surprisingly then, communication is thwarted.

While this process is important for all relationships, marriage, family, friends, work, one of the best books that describes it is a classic parenting book, *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk* by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish. While written for parents, the communication principles it describes and the accompanying exercises are applicable for any relationship. It can bring persons closer and diffuse stress that comes with conflict. Ultimately, it communicates Love.

"Listen closely to what I am saying. You can console me by listening to me." — Job 21:2 (NLT)

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.

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the month of October, we'll be focusing on how God uses Spiritual Gifts to equip and build up the larger community of faith and God's healing purposes in the world. Our primary scripture will be taken from 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12. As we continue to seek God's will and purpose for this congregation, we know that honoring those ways that the Holy Spirit has enabled us to pursue ministry will produce much fruit and glory for God!

Sunday, Oct. 5

World Communion Sunday

1 Corinthians 12:12-26; Matthew 21:33-45

Celebration of Global Ministries

Sunday, Oct. 12

Spiritual Gifts: An Introduction

1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:1-8

Sunday, Oct. 19

Laity Sunday

Lay Servant Tim Page preaching

Exodus 33:12-23; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Sunday, Oct. 26

Spiritual Gifts: An Application

Exodus 18:13-27; Acts 6:1-6

Concecration of Eucharistic Ministers

Sunday, Nov. 2

All Saints Sunday

We will honor and remember those friends and members of the church family who have died during this past year with the lighting of candles, ringing of the chimes and lovingly lifting their name in prayer.

Please make sure to submit names you would like included in this year's service to the church office, 652-8411 or office.mtlebanonumc@verizon.net no later than Sunday, Oct. 26. Thanks and God bless.

If you would like to contribute an article — or if you have a question or comment — please contact our editor: Christopher Portante, cportante@gmail.com or (302) 750-8353

Reader:

Oct. 5 Iva Boardman
Oct. 12 Tracy Hopkins
Oct. 19 Harry West
Oct. 26 TBD

Altar Guild:

Oct. 5 Laurence Birkett, Tracy Hopkins
Oct. 12 Harry West, Julia Tulloch
Oct. 19 Sylvia & Jerry Eubanks
Oct. 26 Iva Boardman, Gale Ziegler

Ushers:

Oct. 5 Becky Byrd, Chris Portante
Oct. 12 Iva Boardman, Gale Ziegler
Oct. 19 Iva Boardman, Gale Ziegler
Oct. 26 Kia Brabson, Donna Peterson

Fellowship Helpers:

We need you!

If you are interested in helping, a sign-up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall Please find our message for this month below and edit in any way you see fit..



October

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Bible Study 10am CD Group 12:30pm Lay Leadership 7pm N.A. Group 8pm	2 Disciple 6:30pm	3 Prayer & Fasting 9am-2pm	4 Family Promise Dinner 5:30pm
5 World Communion Sunday Shipley Worship 2pm Youth Group 4:30pm	6 Painting Class 1pm	7 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5 pm Trustees Meeting 7pm	8 Bible Study 10am CD Group 12:30pm SPRC 7pm N.A. Group 8am	9 Disciple 6:30pm	10 Food Closet @ BCC 9am-noon	11 The Well Training @ Cornerstone UMC 8:45am-3:30pm
12 Emmaus Group 1pm Prayer & Fasting 2-4pm Youth Group 4:30pm	13 Painting Class 1pm Admin Council 7pm	14 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5pm	15 Bible Study 10am CD Group 12:30pm N.A. Group 8am	16 Disciple 6:30pm	17	18 All Church Work Day 9am-noon
19 Shipley Worship 2pm Youth Group 4:30pm	20 UMW Meeting 11am Painting Class 1pm	21 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5pm Endowment 7pm	22 Bible Study 10am CD Group 12:30pm N.A. Group 8am	23 Disciple 6:30pm	24 Food Closet @ BCC 9am-noon Finance Meeting 7pm	25 Spiritual Gifts Workshop 10am-2pm
26 Youth Group 4:30pm	27 Painting Class 1pm Mission Team 7pm	28 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5pm	29 Bible Study 10am CD Group 12:30pm Lay Leadership 7pm N.A. Group 8am	30 Disciple 6:30pm	31	
2014						

Reflections...

I am awed and delighted to report that over 25 people are currently engaged in the 34-week Disciple Bible study course that we began in mid-September. That's way over 1/3 of our active Sunday morning worship attendance! I am likewise humbled and amazed that when the Lay Leadership Committee prayed and came up with a list of potential people to consider for a co-Lay Leader position, some 10 persons were named. That's over 1/6 of our active Sunday morning worship attendance!

I am pleased and proud when I hear about the many, many expressions of care and concern extended to our Administrative Assistant, Phoebe Chan, and all our church members who have lost loved ones in these recent months. You continue to be God's hands and feet of compassion for so many.

I am continually grateful to God for the outpouring of commitment and service in and through this small church family. I know that many of us have been hit hard over the last several months with illness, loss of loved ones, additional family or work responsibilities and a host of other significant challenges to our collective spiritual wellbeing. I know that we often disappoint one another and occasionally even unintentionally discourage one another. I know how easy it is to think our little offerings of ministry don't make much difference in the bigger picture. But the truth is God is not done with us yet.

Our numbers may be small at this point, but our God remains BIGGER than our fears about numbers! Our efforts may not yet result in our desired outcomes, but our love of God is undergirding all that we attempt. Our finances may be stretched further than we prefer, but our God's providential care activated through our generous giving will see us through. Galatians 6:9-10 says this: So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have the opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for the family of faith. Don't give up church family, remember that God is still blessing and guiding each of us.

Pastor Jennifer Kerby

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

850 Mt. Lebanon Road
Wilmington, DE 19803

Phone: (302) 652-8411

E-mail: office.mtlebanonumc@verizon.net

Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.