

The Lantern

OCTOBER 2015

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



Shoe and Belt Collection is a Success!

Thanks to your generous outpouring, 23 pairs of shoes (some new and some used) and some 20 belts were collected to help McKean High School students comply with their new dress code. Your donations make Jesus visible in the lives of young people who often struggle with forces beyond their control and feeling cared and provided for. **Thank you & God bless!**

NEW Study Thursday Nights Beginning Oct. 1, 2015

When Helping Hurts is a six-week study that explores the reality and questions of how well intentioned people can end up making matters worse. The study offers a different framework for thinking about poverty and its alleviation. Rather than simply defining poverty as a lack of material things, the book addresses the roots of poverty: broken relationships with God, self and others and the rest of creation. A reading book, study book and online video segments provide an in-depth opportunity to explore issues of poverty and our Christian response.

Women of Faith Weekend Friday, Oct. 9 – Saturday, Oct. 10

It's not too late to sign up for this wonderful weekend of retreat and renewal in Christ! Join with other women of Mt. Lebanon who will travel to Charlotte NC to participate in the Women of Faith weekend. This year's conference is titled "Loved; You are seen. You are known. You are free. Connect with a community of women that gets what you're going through...and with the God who loves you more than you know." Check in with Julia Tulloch or Maxcy Page to get details. Financial assistance is available.

"The Well" Training Events Sat., Oct. 10 at St. Luke's UMC, Denton, MD

Join in this wonderful opportunity to hear inspirational speaker Rev. Paul Nixon, author of *The Surprise Factor* and *I Refuse to Lead A Dying Church* and choose from a variety of compelling workshops in the afternoon including "Conflict Transformation," "Understanding Privilege," "Developing your life with God through Prayer" and many others. Details are found in the handouts on the Info Table in the hall. Registrations needed by Tuesday, Oct. 6. Carpooling will be available; sign-ups on the Info Table.

Youth Group/Confirmation Class Begins This Month!

After our great Kick-off Event of Bowling and Dinner in August, with over 12 youth attending, we are getting ready to start this year's "Youth Faith Quest/Confirmation." The youth will meet every week on Sundays, from 12:30-2pm following lunch in the hall with one week focusing on Confirmation and Faith Questing and the alternate weeks on Youth Group activities. Service projects, Bible study and of course attending the Youth Rally! are just part of this year's line-up. We welcome back Mike Apotheke, Ford Quinn, Georgia and Charlotte Hanby, Niki-La David and Eric Lindsay and welcome Alexis Winans, Christina Heart, Danielle Birkett, Emma Liss and Leah Schuibbeo to our action season of faith questing together. Many thanks to Youth Leader Julia Tulloch who continues to serve with energy and dedication in conjunction with Pastor Jennifer. Questions? Check in with either of us anytime.

Memorial Service for Mary Feltz Sunday, Oct. 18 at 2:30pm

All are invited to share in this special time of remembrance and celebration in the Mt. Lebanon sanctuary, with light refreshments to follow. Mary was the oldest member of our congregation when she died July 14 at the tender age of 103!

All Saints Sunday – November 1

Please take note of this very special Worship service as we remember and celebrate the lives of those beloved saints of this congregation who have died and entered into their eternal life with Christ. Please submit names of those you would like included to be recognized in this service to the office, 652-8411, no later than Sun., Oct. 18. Thank you.

Save the Date!

Silent Auction & Pasta Dinner Saturday, Nov. 14 from 4:30 to 7:30pm

Once again, your Leadership Team is planning a fun evening of food, fellowship and fundraising. We are currently gathering donations for the Silent Auction; if you have any items of value that you think others might enjoy bidding on, please call Becky Byrd at 690-4992. Volunteers also needed to help prepare and serve the meal. **See more on page 4!**

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY, OCT. 4

World Communion Sunday

Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26;

Hebrews 1:1-3, 2:10-12; Mark 10:13-16

The Global Feast

SUNDAY, OCT. 11

Faith and Finances - Part I

SUNDAY, OCT. 18

Faith and Finances - Part II

SUNDAY, OCT. 25

Women of Faith Worship

Join in this joy-filled celebration of our Women's Ministry as they return to share their experiences from the "Women of Faith" Retreat held in Charlotte, NC.

New Sign and Banners!

Hopefully by now, you've noticed our new church sign on Mt. Lebanon Rd. It was designed to permit us to advertise our church's special events and ministries with replaceable banners; and do so in a way that was visible to those passing by on Mt. Lebanon Road. Our deepest thanks go to volunteers Jim Thomein and Joe Chan, and Trustee member Brent Apotheker for all their help and labor with the project.

Now it's your turn! If you would like to sponsor or help sponsor a particular banner, your donations would be gratefully appreciated. Special events that will need banners include the annual Silent Auction and Dinner, our newest event of Barbecue and Line Dancing Night, Monthly Day of Prayer and the Free Community Car Wash. The cost runs from approximately \$175 (6' x 2') to \$325 (6' x 6') depending on the banner. Please let our Trustees know what you think about this newest addition to our property.

October Preaching Series: "Faith & Finance"

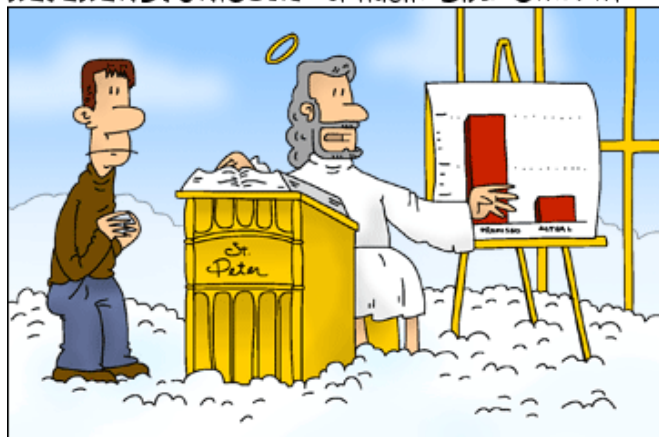
Will God make me prosperous and wealthy? // Why do people have money problems, even when they are serving God? Why hasn't God answered my prayers to get out of debt? // Did Jesus really mean all that stuff about blessed are the poor?

Money and faith often seem to be at odds with one another. For many of us, managing money or worrying about finances takes up more time and energy than ever we give to our faith. This series, largely based on Randy Alcorn's book "The Treasure Principle," will look at the underlying Biblical principles of a Christian understanding of and approach to money matters.

Cards of Caring Ministry

By now, we hope you've noticed the table in the hall each week set up with note cards, stamps, stickers, pens and address directories all so you can take a moment and send a note of caring to someone you may not have seen for a while in church or who you know may be facing a hard time in their life. You know how much receiving a card brightens your day, just knowing that someone is thinking about you and lifting you up in prayer. Now we have the chance each week to do the same for others. Stop by one Sunday soon and take the time to send a smile through the mail!

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IN THIS CHART WE CAN SEE YOUR PROMISED GOOD DEEDS COMPARED TO YOUR ACTUAL FOLLOW THROUGH

COMMENTS? CONCERNS? SUGGESTIONS?

Contact Chris Portante at:

cportante@gmail.com or 302.750.7353

In our last issue, we highlighted some of our lesser-known staff members. Here a few others worth recognizing:

Editor, The Funny Pages	Hugh Mormey
Mr. Portante's Hairstylist	Y.I. Bodder
Restaurant Critic - Berlin office	Herr N. Maizoop
Catholic News Reporter	Neil Sittenstand
Candle Affairs Officer (CAO)	Carmen "Baby" Light-Maffar
Staff Psychologist	Olaf U. Arnotz

And, as always:

Managing Editor

Legal Counsel

Food provided by:

Church News Contributors

Christopher Portante

Kaapi & Peyst, LLP

Cass A. Rolldisch

You!



CONAM Corner

The Commentary of Red Jacket
from "Giving Away Our Hearts"
by Thom White Wolf Fassett

Perhaps one of the most lucid commentaries on the relationship of Christian missions to Native people came from an old Seneca chief in 1805. Missionary Cram was sent to Red Jacket and others of the principal chiefs and warriors at Buffalo Creek (now Buffalo, NY) to instruct the Indians on "how to worship the Great Spirit."

Red Jacket was acquainted with the Christian church and knew that while the nomadic Hebrews were eulogized, transient Indians needed to be "civilized." Christians talked about the Holy Ghost in their places of worship while at the same time damning the Indian spirit world. Red Jacket had witnessed denominations reluctant to share pulpits, yet proclaiming the unifying nature of God's Word. It was out of this context that the chief replied to Mr. Cram after patiently listening to him deliver his message.

"Brother, our seats were once large and yours were small. You have become a great people, and we have scarcely a place left to spread our blankets. You have got our country but are not satisfied; you want to force your religion upon us... You say that you are sent to instruct us how to worship the Great Spirit agreeably to his mind, and if we do not take hold of the religion which you white people teach, we shall be unhappy hereafter... We understand that your religion is written in a book. If it was intended for us as well as you, why has not the Great Spirit given it to us, and not only to us, but why did he not give to our forefathers the knowledge of that book with the means of understanding it rightly? We only know what you tell us about it.

How shall we know what to believe, being so often deceived by the white people? Brother, you say that there is but one way to worship and serve the Great Spirit. If there is but one religion why do you white people differ so much about it? Why not all agree, as you can all read the book?... Brother, we are told that you have been preaching to white people in this place. These people are our neighbors, we are acquainted with them. We will wait a little while and see what effect your preaching has on them. If we find it does them good, makes them honest and less disposed to cheat Indians, we will then consider again what you have said."

2 Corinthians 5:20 — "So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us."

Request for Recommendations for Nomination of Candidates for the Office of Bishop

September 16, 2015

Dear Pastor/Lay Member

Greetings on behalf of our Lord from the delegates to the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. One of our tasks involves prayerful consideration of candidates for the office of Bishop for the United Methodist Church. At the end of this process, which will occur over the next several months, the delegation will decide if there are one or two names we would want to present to the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference meeting next spring for their endorsement as a Bishop candidate to the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

Some of the qualities that have been identified in people who have served as bishop with success are:

- Spiritually Centered
- Visionary
- Shepherd
- Healer and Reconciler
- Leader, Manager, and Administrator

We ask you for the following:

- First, pray about whom you feel is being called to the office of Bishop. The person must be an elder in full connection and under the age of 68 as of July 1, 2016. Don't worry if you are unsure of the person's age; we can determine that for you.
- Before October 8, 2015, submit a Microsoft Word document to the Conference Office with the person's name and, in under 100 words, why this person would make a good candidate for Bishop.

Mail should be sent to arrive on or before October 8, 2015.
Send to:

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith
BFEM Resource Center
139 N. State St.
Dover, DE 19901

Or email to: vgordy-stith@pen-del.org

Even if you have no names to lift up at this time, we appreciate your prayers as we start this important process in the life of our denomination. If you have any questions, you can contact the Rev. Dr. Gordy-Stith at Conference Office.

Peace,
Kevin G. Goodwin, Delegation Chair

We're Out of "Memories"!

Our church has been blessed with those willing and able to compile memory and photo books of our long history. Many of you were able to browse through these wonderful resources at our recent Homecoming Celebration. But we find that we have now run out of copies of the booklet "Memories of Mt. Lebanon; Oral and Written Memories of the Past 75 Years," published in 1997 for the celebration of 185 years of uninterrupted Christian worship and service here at Mt. Lebanon.

It's a delightful book, full of wonderful stories that we do well to cherish and remember. But we need your help in preserving those memories and this booklet! The estimated cost for publishing another 100 copies is \$375; for 50 copies, the cost is around \$250.

If you would like to contribute to the ministry of re-producing our memories, please send your check to the church office and mark "Memories Book" in the memo line. Thank you and God bless.

Africa Univ. Matching Grant Funds

We have recently received the news that the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference has a matching gift fund for Africa University. All are invited to help deplete this wonderful gift of \$25,000 by sending in your donations which will be matched dollar for dollar. Mt. Lebanon's special offering collection earlier in the year already includes some money for Africa University which will be matched through this fund. But perhaps you would now like to provide additional support, knowing it will go even further!

Currently, our Annual Conference supports two full and one partial endowed scholarships at Africa University. Our goal is to raise enough money to support three fully endowed scholarships. 90% of the students attending Africa University requiring some financial aid. You can learn more about Africa University, including how to add Africa University to your estate plans, by visiting: www.support-africauniversity.org.

If you would like to provide a gift which will be matched, please send your church to the church with "AU" marked on the memo line.

October Servants

Altar Guild

Oct. 4	Tracy Hopkins
Oct. 11	Julia Tulloch
Oct. 18	Marilyn Hetrick
Oct. 25	Iva Boardman

Ushers

Oct. 4	Donna Peterson, Harry West
Oct. 11	Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick
Oct. 18	Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick
Oct. 25	Kia Brabson, Donna Peterson

Reader

Oct. 4	Iva Boardman
Oct. 25	Donna Winans

Fellowship Hall Helpers

TBD

Silent Auction Donations NEEDED!

Each year Mt. Lebanon has a dinner and silent auction. The silent auction is our main fundraiser for the general operating fund for the church. Last year was a great success, and we are hoping that this year will be even better, but we need YOUR help! We need your donations. Donations can include gently-used items such as computers, TVs, printers, dishes, etc. Please ask businesses you frequent: restaurants, salons, and stores, for instance, for donations like gift cards, gift packages, or merchandise.

Perhaps you or a family member have a vacation home or ticket package that you would be willing to donate. Finally, perhaps you have particular skills such as photography, computers, tax prep, or child care that you would be willing to donate for a few hours. If you think your item isn't sufficient for an auction item, don't worry! We're experts at combining a couple of items and the right packaging to make it SELL! All donations are tax deductible, and some places may ask for a letter. We have a letter available in hard copy and electronically. Contact Becky Byrd (750-8353, rebecca.byrd@gmail.com) to let her know about donations, if you need a letter, or have any questions. Please try to notify Becky of donations by Nov. 4, however, donations will be accepted up until the start of the dinner. Thank you in advance!

Reflections...

Our Sunday morning all-church study recently focused on the theme of "Holy Rest." To tell you the truth, the conversation came at just the right time. September in the church always seems extra busy with getting new ministries off the ground or restarting prior ministries, and that's on top of getting back to school and planning for the upcoming months. By the time October rolls around, many in the church are overwhelmed and running on fumes; small irritations can seem much larger, delight in Jesus can be easily replaced by drudgery and before you know it, good Christian souls can start wondering what is the point of all this hurry-scurry?! The study asked the questions: Does God really want us to work ourselves to exhaustion? Does our worth really come from what we do? How can our faith help us as we seek relief from our stressful lives?

The answers to these questions that I found most compelling came as we reviewed a number of Jesus' "I am..." statements found in the Gospel of John (John 6:34; 8:12; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1.) The study guide observed that Jesus defined himself with these statements and that being clear about our focus allows us to say no to pressures and expectations that are not part of God's mission for us. Reading and reflecting on who Jesus is for us can also help us be more clear about how we are receiving and responding to God's power and purposes in our lives. When we hear that "Jesus is the light of the world, that whoever follows him will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12), we can pause and remember that Jesus' light is both visible in terms of en-lightening our hearts and minds, our decisions and questions, as well as tangible in terms of having our burdens lifted from us by the lightness of Jesus' life. Remember those wonderful words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28? Come to me all of you who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest.

So often, I just keep trying to plow along on my own steam when Jesus is always waiting, ready and willing to receive me, renew me and reveal to me just what I need in any given moment. I hope and pray that our prayer for each other in this month ahead will be that we might run to our prayer closets, that we might rest in Jesus' light, and that we might live as though Paul's words are really, truly true, that God's grace is sufficient for our every need in each and every moment of our lives. May it be so for you and for me. Amen.

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.