



The Messenger



Chalfont United Methodist Church * 11 Meadowbrook Lane, Chalfont, PA 18914-2810
Phone: (215) 822-2807 * e mail: office@chalfontumc.org

October/November 2014

STATE OF THE CHURCH REPORT

As I was thinking about the current state of Chalfont the words “under construction” kept coming to mind. We’ve spent the past few years digging the footers as we’ve prayed about becoming the prayer/retreat center God is calling us to be.

We believe we are being called to embody the words of Jesus in John 14: 12, “The one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father” (NRSV) and also Matthew 11:28 -29, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (NRSV). We know this isn’t something that happens overnight. Through discussions centering on the best way for us to move forward we have identified four keys areas we want to address before the 2015 Charge Conference.

1. We know that if we are going to be successful that God needs to be the main support. Therefore we need to develop a solid biblical foundation. One way we have begun to build this is through a church-wide study from beginning to end of the Bible- called The Story. This journey began Sept 7, 2014 and continues through May 3, 2015. We are hoping to get everyone involved in this study. Sunday school lessons are provided for all ages from our youngest in the nursery through adults. Small group studies are being offered as well as suggestions for activities for families to do during the week.

2. Along with a solid foundation every building should have strong structural columns in place before the building is constructed. In the coming year we want to identify our 3 core values along with developing an organizational/administrative/leadership structure that will support our mission rather than trying to make the mission/vision support the structure (*while staying within the guidelines in the 2012 Discipline*). The current system has become unwieldy and cumbersome. We have many vacant positions and many of our folks are serving on numerous committees. Planning the administrative structure around the mission/vision will provide stronger structural support allowing us to be more effective and better equipped to handle the challenges and opportunities we face.

3. Much of our vision includes developing the outside of the property into sacred space. Therefore, our goal is to bring a professional landscaper on board to assist us in designing the blueprint for the development of the grounds along with some cost estimates so that we can create a timeline and plan for the development of the property.

4. Finally, as we live into and become a prayer and retreat center we want to create greater visibility and marketing strategies including a logo and other branding ideas.

So please - “pardon our dust.”...

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Seekford, Pastor

**PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR 2014 CHARGE CONFERENCE
WED. OCTOBER 26TH AT 7:00 PM IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER.**

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Memoriam: Long time church member, **David L. Peardon** passed away on August 22, 2014. He was 82 years old. He was extremely involved in the working of CUMC for many years. He leaves behind his wife, **Louise** and their children, **Natalie Peardon Brooks** and **Nathaniel Peardon**.

Memoriam: On September 29, 2014 **Helen M. Duff** also passed away. She was 88 years old. Helen and her family were members of CUMC for many years; she was very involved in both community and church activities throughout those years. She is survived by four daughters: **Carol, Heather, Guenelda and Margaret**.

Memorial Services: This past month and a half we have had three memorial services held here at CUMC for three long-standing and dedicated members of the congregation. Two of those members (**David Peardon and Nora Polgar**) were veterans; and the **Chalfont VFW Post 3258** presented an impressive salute to their service in the United States Military.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the \$70.00 donation received in July/August for the Moldova Children's School..

Thank you from the New Britain Food Larder for the 15 bags of groceries received on September 8 and the generous donation of \$335.00. Also for the 10 bags of food and school supplies.

The Peardon family thanks everyone for the cards, prayers and love expressed at the passing of David.

The Girl Scouts would like to say thank you to CUMC for allowing us to use the FLC to hold a Super Sitters Baby sitting class and CPR/First Aid class for girls and leaders. On October 4th, a total of 27 girls were certified in baby sitting and 34 girls and leaders were certified in CPR and First Aid. Thank you for your continued support of Girl Scouts!

CHIME CHOIR

On Wednesdays at 7:00 to 7:45 (until December 10) the Chime choir will be rehearsing in the Sanctuary. Their efforts will culminate with a performance in the Sounds of the Season Concert on December 14.

RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Did you know that here at Chalfont we currently have more than 30 folks that have been members of Chalfont for over 40 years? That's a long time and we want to say thank you.

The above paragraph was written in last month's newsletter, but unfortunately problems have gotten in the way of our celebration.

So we have now scheduled our Recognition Sunday for Sunday, April 19th (instead of October 19th). We felt that this was an appropriate time of the year for as many people as possible to attend. Invitations will be sent.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Imagine coming to church on Sunday and having no coffee! For years Coffee Fellowship has been a mainstay at CUMC; it's a time for fellowship and sharing when we are through (*or before*) we worship.

So...thank you to Bill Vandergrift for volunteering to head up coffee fellowship for us.

We also want to thank Louise Peardon for doing this job - buying food, setting up the table, making coffee, organizing people to help and cleaning up for many, many years.

C'MON KIDS!

Children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir which is currently practicing at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary. Plans are to sing an anthem with the Adult Choir at the 9:30 service on 11/16 and two Christmas songs for this year's Sound of the Season's Concert on December 14th. Come on and join the fun! *For more information, contact Pastor Erin.*

THE STORY: UPDATE Finding Your Story in God's Story

Each of our Sunday morning Christian Ed classes are using the curriculum.

To supplement the study small group studies have been formed. Currently groups are meeting at church on Sunday (6:30 - 8:00 pm); Tuesday (10:00 - 11:30 am); Tuesday (7:00 - 8:30 pm) and Wednesday (6:30 to 7:45 pm)

We will be taking a break to celebrate Advent and Christmas, then Sunday Dec. 28th The Story will resume. *If you haven't enrolled in a small group this is a good time to consider joining.*

CALENDAR

11/4 - Tuesday - Voting (*Family Life Center*)
 11/10- Monday - Young at Heart (*Zoto's - noon*)
 11/15 - Saturday - UMW Brunch meeting (*9:00 to noon*)
 11/26 - Wednesday - Community Thanksgiving Service -
 New Britain Baptist church (*7:30 pm*)
 11/30 - Sunday - Hanging of the Greens Service (*9:30,
 11:00*)
 12/13 - Saturday - UMW Cookie Sale (*9:30 am*)
 12/14 - Sunday - Sounds of the Season II Christmas
 Concert (*7:00 pm, sanctuary*)

CONFIRMATION CLASSES IN FALL

Attention all students in grades 7-12- confirmation classes will be held this fall at Chalfont UMC. Confirmation Sunday is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 23, 2014. If you are interested in being part of the class (or want to know what confirmation is (!) - *please contact Pastor Barb (bjseekford@gmail.com, 610.310.8349) for more information!*

COMMUNITY GARDEN

After Roger, Bob and Greg have completely harvested the last of the tomatoes and eggplants, do not be surprised to see green still growing in our raised beds. This winter we will be experimenting with winter rye grass as a cover crop. Come late, late winter, we will cut the rye grass down, chop it up and incorporate the choppings into the raised bed soil as "green manure" before we sow our next vegetable seeds and seedlings.

Any guesses on how tall the rye grass will get before we cut it down?

WELCOME BACK TO:

Boy Scout Troop 133
Cub Pack 133 (*Webelos, Wolf, Bear*)
Junior Girl Scout Troop 2285
Cadette Girl Scout Troop 21309
Senior Girl Scout Troop 21851
Sunday Night AA Group
Monday Night Watercolor Class (*Marcia Weikert*)
New Monday Night AA Group

HAPPY BIRTHDAY KOFFEE KLATCH

A Memory Cafe

It's hard to believe, but the Koffee Klatch: A Memory Cafe celebrated it's first birthday at its October meeting. In one year, the cafe has grown from 4 to almost 20 participants! *Special thanks to all of our CUMC volunteers--Kathy, Nicole, Judy, Dawn, John, Emily, Harry, Yolanda, Willie, Mike, Karen, and Marge--* for all the time, energy, smiles, and hugs that they so generously share with all of our guests.

I also extend much gratitude to all those who contribute the delicious baked goods that delight us all each month. Thank you, too, to the United Methodist Women, our church family, and our Koffee Klatch Angel Nora Polgar for the prayers and financial support.

And finally, thanks to Joan Jensen for her dedication, enthusiasm, and belief in the Koffee Klatch project; without her, we would not be able to serve our community as we do today. (*ps. We miss you, Joan!*) Oh, and don't forget to attend our next meeting on Wednesday, November 12th from 10 to noon. *With love in Christ, Pastor Erin*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The ladies of the United Methodist Women will be meeting on Saturday November 15. Brunch will be begin at 9:00 followed by our meeting. Please bring your favorite breakfast dish and come and join the fellowship.

The UMW will be holding their annual Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 13.

Bakers - you should start thinking about what special additions you will bake for the sale, and remember... no peanut butter. For those of you who only sample the cookies - start anticipating!

NEW GAS LINE TO CHURCH

If you have looked carefully at the front lawn (*facing what used to be 202*) you will have noticed that there is a long trench leading from the road to the church building.

The Trustees have approved the installation of natural gas (*to replace oil*) to heat the church. Peco digs the trench and lays the pipe from road to building for free. That part is complete. What happens next? Ask the Trustees!

It will ultimately save CUMC a lot of money.

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STAFF DIRECTORY

REV. BARBARA SEEKFORD	Pastor
REV. KENNETH L. BEALE, SR.	Pastoral Care Minister
REV. ERIN MAURER	Deacon, Worship Leader
CRIS FRISCO	Director of Music
PATRICIA L. KERR	Administrative Assistant

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IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, October 26

(Annual Charge Conference in the Family Life Center)

Tuesday, November 4

(Elections in the Family Life Center)

Wednesday, November 26

(Community Thanksgiving Eve Service)

Sunday November 30

(1st Sunday in Advent - Hanging of the Greens Service)

Sunday, December 7

(2nd Sunday in Advent)

Saturday December 13

(UMW Cookie Sale)

Sunday, December 14

(3rd Sunday in Advent; Sounds of the Season Christmas Concert - 7:30 pm, Sanctuary)

Don't forget to Vote
on
November 4th!