



The Messenger



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

February 2015

HOW ARE YOU DOING?

“If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers – most of which are never even seen – don’t you think he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God’s giving. People who don’t know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the times comes.” Matthew 6: 30-34 (The Message)

We are one month into a new year! How are you doing? How are you making out with the New Year’s resolutions or the life changes that are happening? This month I’m sharing with you some thoughts from The Rev. Rob Faller, a friend and colleague, from St. Andrew UMC in New Berlinville. I hope they will serve to encourage, inspire and uplift you in this yew year.

Rob writes: “The words of Jesus should still challenge us today. I love Peterson’s translation of ‘Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God provisions.’ The idea of steeping my life in God is precisely what I need to remember to do. Too often I become focused on my plans, my desires, and my concerns. We look at things through the same jaded perspective of the world, instead of the God perspective that we are called to have. Jesus’ solution is simple – stay in the present with the God who proclaims “I AM.” In other words, God is not stuck in the past and neither should we. God is not worried about the future and neither should we. Instead, God is the ever present God in charge of our present reality. This concept is clear in the Hebrew understanding of God and Jesus insists upon this perspective from his disciples.

Personally, I notice how easy it is for me to fall prey to seeking my own desires and making sure my future will fit my plan. I can get frustrated by things not going my way or seeing the struggles in the world around me. This year, I hope I can remind myself time and again to allow myself to steep in God’s presence. To trust that he is in control and that so long as I am faithfully obeying his will everything will turn out exactly as he desires. It is so easy to say that we simply must trust God – the difficult part is truly living it....Never worrying about what is next, but trusting that as we give God our divine yes, God will be there for the next step.

Let us seek to make this a year of steeping in God’ presence. When we feel frustrated, lost or abandoned, let us return to the simplest place of faith and stay at the feet of Christ. Let us challenge each other to stop focusing on the world and the world’s perspectives and instead help each other to stay grounded in God’s grace. Together, we should push each other to allowing God’s greatness to work and live in each of us day by day.” *Rev. Rob Faller*

Chalfont- This year let us push each other to “stay in the present with the God who proclaims ‘I AM’ serving and working together in God’s reality, by God’s initiative with God’s provisions.
Pastor Barb

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

In Memory: Jim Ellsworth passed away on Sunday, December 14. For several years he was a devoted member of our Sanctuary Choir. He was the father of **Cathy Burkhardt** and **Amy Ellsworth**. He will be missed by all.

Congratulations: Lisa Spiller, daughter of **Sue Walla**, graduated with a BFA from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University. In addition to being artistically talented, Lisa still sings with the Chancel Choir on special occasions.

Address Change: Pastor Barb and Andy Seekford have a new address: 129 Vale Drive, Boyertown, PA 19512.

THANK YOU

The family of Jim Ellsworth thank all of the members of Chalfont United Methodist Church for the many thoughtful notes, thoughts and prayers as Dad (*and we*) dealt with his illness and passing. It's the thoughtfulness of friends that gets you through a time like this.

The staff would like to thank everyone who contributed to the generous gifts presented to us during the Christmas Eve Services.

Thank you from the New Britain Baptist Church Food Larder for the generous donation of \$300.00. We are deeply grateful to you for your support in serving the needy that depend on the food larder for assistance.

Thank you to Jim Weikert for supporting the Music Department with the DVD of the 2014 Sounds of the Season Concert. Copies are still available in the church office for a donation of \$5/\$10 (*money to support the music program*).

ALTERNATIVE GIVING

This year \$2,250.00 was collected during the Christmas Season to be disbursed to the following: \$160.00 to the Americans for Native Americans; \$1,270.00 to Chalfont UMC's Discretionary Fund; \$755.00 to Heifer International; and \$65.00 to the Moldova Children's School..

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

"The Story" Bible studies are again meeting on:

Tuesday - 10:00 to 11:30 am

Tuesday - 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Wednesday - 6:30 to 8:00 pm

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

At our January meeting, our long-standing president, Gail Schnell retired from her position. Gail has worked tirelessly over the last 6 years leading our UMW, and we cannot thank her enough for everything she has done for the group and for the church. Luckily, she has agreed to continue to act in an advisory role to our new president, **Kris Karcher.** **Dawn Morris** will continue in her role as Treasurer this year, and the Secretary role will be split between **Barbara Conley** and **Judy Vandegrift.**

As we head into 2015, we have some wonderful activities coming up. The annual Rummage Sale and Spring Tea will be familiar. However, we are also going to be running a new Pot Pie fundraiser, as well as hosting a church Potluck "Dinner and a Movie" fellowship night.

The United Methodist Women would like to thank all of the people who participated in our Annual Christmas Cookie Sale in December, both the bakers and the buyers! We had a great variety of cookies, and *raised over \$950 for programs and missions.*

The Mitten Tree was also a success! Thanks to your generosity, we collected 103 hats, 34 gloves/mittens and 2 scarves, that were divided between the Ann Silverman Health Clinic in Bucks County and the Salvation Army in Norristown, Montgomery County.

SAVE THE DATES!!

Save the following dates for upcoming UMW events (*more information on these to follow as the events get closer*) -

POTLUCK "DINNER AND A MOVIE" - Saturday, March 28th. Bring a dish to pass, and stay for fellowship and fun.

RUMMAGE SALE - Saturday, April 11th. Plan now to clean out your closets of unused items!

ANNUAL SPRING TEA - Saturday, May 16th. Ladies, come celebrate Spring in a fun and fancy way!

POT PIE SALE FEBRUARY 21 and 22 \$3.50 to \$5.50

Between church services place your orders (*now through Feb. 8th*) with Judy Vandegrift for Fisher's Pot Pies! Choices are: chicken pot pie, beef pot pie, and apple deep dish pot pie. Pick-up dates will be Feb. 21st and 22nd. Net proceeds will go towards programs and missions.

TRUSTEES REPORT

We are happy to report that the two oil-burning boilers have been completely switched over to natural gas as of the first week of January. There were a lot of delays and a great deal of coordination was required to make it happen, but it's finally done and we have started enjoying the cleaner, cheaper heat. It seems to be working well so far.

The big news, however is the cooking-related fire at the parsonage. The fire company responded and quickly put out the fire. It happened on Christmas day and caused quite a bit of commotion--especially among the trustees. Thankfully, no one was hurt, but there was a good deal of damage to the range top and cabinets as well as smoke damage throughout the house. It was slow getting the insurance adjuster report and contractor bids, but we finally got a settlement check during the week of Jan. 18th. The cleanup work was completed fairly quickly and the painting/carpentry parts of the project are underway. We anticipate that the work will be complete around the first week of February. The positive aspect is that we will end up with a completely new up-to-date kitchen, which was badly needed in order to be a desirable rental property. Many other updates (e.g. windows, bathrooms) are also needed but hopefully they can be done with a little less drama!

Another project we are looking at is replacing the church sign near Butler Pike with a modern electronic sign with the ability to easily change the messages. This started out as an effort to replace the small "A-Frame" sign we use for special events and grew a little. Currently, we are trying to find out what the town will allow us to do. Once we figure out what we're actually doing, we will report in the newsletter, so stay tuned! We believe a new sign will go a long way in attracting attention to the church and let the community know we're "open for business". We've heard that many people drive by the church every day and still don't know we are there! If anyone has questions or suggestions, please talk to a trustee. We have identified partial funding, but that aspect is under discussion as well.

YEAR END STATEMENTS

If you still need a year-to-date accounting of your giving for 2014 see Jim Reece. Also - 2015 Envelopes are available in the office if you have not received yours; and remember that electronic giving is another option.

UNITED METHODIST WORKSHOPS

St. Paul's UMC will be hosting workshops on "Important Life and Death Decisions.

Sunday, February 15 (*Living wills, advanced directives, durable power of attorney, planning for senior care, etc.*)

Sunday, March 15 (*Social Security, Retirement, IRA's*)

Sunday, April 17 (*Wills and Bequests*)

Call (215)343-0230 to register. Leave your name, contact information and number of people attending.

CALENDAR

2/8 - Boy Scout Sunday

2/18 -Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil (7:00 am to 7:00 pm)

2/18 - Ash Wednesday Service (7:30 pm; Sanctuary)

2/21 -UMW Pot Pie Pickup (8:30 to noon; also Sunday, 2/22)

2/22 -Last day to purchase cookies from the Girl Scouts (*during Coffee Fellowship*)

2/28 - Saturday - Cub Pack 133 Pinewood Derby

3/8 - Girl Scout Sunday

3/14 - Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner (4 to 7:00 pm)

3/28 - UMW Potluck Dinner and a Movie

4/11 - UMW Annual Rummage Sale

5/16 - UMW Annual Spring Tea

WATERCOLOR CLASS

Beginning in early March there will be a daytime Watercolor Class offered at CUMC by Marcia Weikert.

For several years she has been teaching an evening class that is open to the community. This class is primarily aimed at church members (*and any interested friends*) who might enjoy beginning lessons in watercolor. To make the class work at least 5 people need to sign up.

Rather than charge for the classes, interested people can make a donation to the church through the office (*see Pat Kerr*). Suggested amount is \$10.00 a class.

Classes will be held on Wednesdays - 9:30 am to 11:30 am (*arrangements will have to be made on Coffee Klatch Wednesdays*).

For more information contact Marcia Weikert (*mjweikert@verizon.net or (215) 822-3062*)

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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

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, February 8

(Boy Scout Sunday)

Wednesday, February 18

(Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil - 7:00 am to 7:00 pm ; Ash Wednesday service - 7:30 pm)

Saturday, February 21

(UMW Pot Pie pick up -until 12:00)

Sunday, February 22

(1st Sunday in Lent)

Sunday, March 1

(2nd Sunday in Advent)

Sunday, March 8

(3rd Sunday in Lent; Girl Scout Sunday)

Saturday, March 14

(Boy Scout Annual Spaghetti Dinner - 4:00 to 7:00 pm)

Lenten Season Begins

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil

7:00 am to 7:00 pm

We encourage everyone to help us have a full day of prayer at CUMC; pray at home, work or the church.

Ash Wednesday Service

7:30 pm

Sanctuary