

The Advocate



February 2010

Happy Valentine's Day

Oxford United Methodist Church, 18 Addison Street, Oxford, PA 19363-1613

610-932-9698

www.oumc-online.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES - 8:30a.m. and 11:00a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:45a.m

Pastor's e-mail: revmarkterry@gmail.com

Office e-mail: oumcsecretary@gmail.com

*Can you find 2 in 2010?
2 to help and befriend?*

I hope you have been enjoying the readings in [Cultivating Fruitfulness](#) by Robert Schnase. If you would like to read the book that he first wrote on the topic, I do have a couple of copies of [Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations](#) if folks would like to borrow them.

When I came six months ago, I told the SPRC and the church leadership that I was going to spend some time like Jethro did when he visited his son-in-law Moses: observing and asking questions, then offering suggestions when the time was right. Well, people are starting to wonder what suggestions I might have to offer. I do have a couple for now:

We need to develop a clear vision for the church, and a mission statement to go with it. In February I will be leading a board-approved team to begin facilitating this process.

We need to have some conversations about money. The ad board heard my thoughts on this in January, and it will be part of the topic of the sermon on the fifth practice: Extravagant Generosity.

My third suggestion is a challenge to each of our active members for 2010. **I want each of us to find two people to become their friend – a friend like Jesus would be.** That is, become the sort of friend who helps them when they need help, loves them unconditionally, and lets them know that God loves them, too.

Perhaps you think you're too old to make new friends, or don't have the opportunity. Here are some friend-making suggestions: 1) get to know your favorite clerk/server at your favorite store/restaurant – make it a point to wait in their line or sit in their section, and take the time to engage them in some conversation. 2) Volunteer with another organization that interests you, and get to know some people there. 3) Reconnect with old friends or family members that you've lost touch with.

What will this do for our church? At some point, if you are generous with your time and talents and love as Jesus was, these new friends will ask why. And when they do, you can tell them about your faith, and where you go to strengthen your faith, and before you realize it, you will have invited 2 people to church!

More importantly, what does it do for you? **When you love as Jesus Christ loves, you experience life as Jesus Christ experiences it – eternal life! Why wait until you die to live that way?**

So keep your eyes and your heart open for the people the Spirit puts in your life, and spend some time this year making some new friends.

Now if you are reading this and you are one of the inactive members of our church, let's be honest. We are all meant to be one body, and without you as an active part of our church, it's like a foot has been separated. I would imagine that a foot that's not connected to a body would stub its toe a lot, and a body without a foot would crash into a lot of walls. So why don't we let Christ knit us back together, so we can move as one in the direction God is leading us?

Monday Night Lenten Bible Study - Journey through the scriptures of Lent on Monday evenings beginning on February 15 at 7:30. Our scripture passages for the first night will be Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13.

SUNDAY SERVICES

| | |
|-------------|--|
| February 7 | Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Luke 21:1-14, Luke 12:13-21 Sermon: Extravagant Generosity Liturgist: Troy Summers |
| February 14 | Scripture: Exodus 34:29-35, Luke 9:28-36 Sermon: Too Good to Keep to Ourselves Liturgist: Becky Kleinz |
| February 21 | Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Luke 4:1-13 Sermon: What's Our Story? Liturgist: Brad Everett |
| February 28 | Scripture: Genesis 15:1-12, Luke 13:31-35 Sermon: Taking the Lord's Name in Vain Liturgist: Susan Safford |

| | GREETERS | FLOWERS |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------|
| February 7 | Ed & Kathy Wilson | Available |
| February 14 | Larry & Pat Reese | Available |
| February 21 | Elsie Winchester | Available |
| February 28 | Joe & Edith Poff | Available |

At the request of the Pastor all greeters are asked to wear name tags, which will be provided on the windowsill. Thank you for your cooperation.

2010 Lock up Schedule

February – Larry Reese
March - Ed Wilson
April – Mark Jamison
May – Lorraine Bruton
June – Charlie Hannum

July – Nancy Cox
August – Larry Reese
September – Jane Hershey
October – Joe Chamberlain
November – Ed Wilson
December – Mark Jamison

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT PANCAKE BREAKFAST



JOIN US FOR THE NEXT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

YOU are what makes it a success

February 27, 2010 – 7am to 10 am

Buttermilk pancakes, fresh fruit, dried beef or sausage gravy, oven roasted potatoes, sausage and specialty breads or muffins

*February Fruitful Fellowship - Accepting the challenge of 'radical hospitality' for and from our congregation, a time of fellowship will be offered on Sunday mornings during February from 9:15 to 9:45, in Fellowship Hall!
All are invited to stop in to visit with friends and share refreshments.*

****Boy Scout Sunday* is February 14 – Please pray for Scouting Ministries. ***

District Information

Any questions please contact Denise Plaughter



FOR NORTHERN & SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY CLERGY

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

11:30 a.m.

Old Country Buffet

Downingtown, PA

(located in the same shopping center as Wegmans)

Fellowship and casual conversation with our District Superintendent and with each other. We have reserved a separate room for this gathering.

Please pay individually as you come in.

2010 CHESTER COUNTY CLUSTER MEETINGS ANNUAL SCHEDULE

All meetings are at the Old Country Buffet in Downingtown at 11:30 a.m.

Second Tuesdays of the Following Months:

February 9

April 13

June 8

September 14

November 9

December – to be determined

If there is a need to change these dates we will try to move to the third Tuesday.

Please pay at the door. RSVP to your cluster leader.

PREPARE-ENRICH PREMARITAL/MARITAL COUNSELING TRAINING

Prepare-Enrich premarital and marital counseling materials were developed by Dr. David Olson several decades ago at the University of Minnesota. Since then, almost 3 million couples have benefited from their use. Participating couples take a customized online assessment, and are then guided by a trained facilitator to learn about and gain experience in communication skills, conflict resolution, stress management, financial decision-making, and a host of other potential marital issues. There is also a personality evaluation component to the program called SCOPE. To be certified to administer the materials, persons must attend a day long workshop with a certified Life Innovations instructor. Upcoming workshop date is April 23, 2010. Other dates are also available. To find out more, sponsor a workshop, or register for an existing one, contact Lloyd Speer at lfspeer3@comcast.net or go to www.prepare-enrich.com and to fill out an online printable registration form. The cost of the listed workshops is \$180, and the site is in Jonestown, PA. More details will be provided upon inquiry.

2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2010 theme: "Leading Beyond the Walls"

May 20-22, 2010

Lancaster Convention Center

3 East Vine Street

Lancaster, PA 17602

District Information

Continued

Any questions please contact Denise Plaughter

LAITY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR TRAINING

Laity are eligible for scholarships up to 2/3 of the cost (up to \$250) or up to \$500 total for a church. Contact Fran Sokso for an application. 610.269.3192 or fsokso@juno.com

BISHOP PEGGY JOHNSON TO HOLD TOWN HALL MEETINGS IN 2010

Bishop Johnson will be conducting town hall meetings on each of the six districts regarding the goals and structure of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference. This will be an opportunity for candid discussion as to where God is leading the annual conference. Southeast district event will be

March 10, 2010 at Grove UMC.

These town hall meetings will be open to all United Methodists in the annual conference, laity and clergy. All active clergy are expected to attend. Please place the date of your district meeting on your calendar along with a start time of 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

All of the dates and locations will be announced soon via email and will be posted on the website: www.epaumc.org. If you are unable to attend your district town hall meeting, feel free to attend one of the others at a more convenient date.

Call for Prayer Shawls and Baby Blankets – In the weeks ahead, Assembly 2010 planners are urging UMW members who have skills in knitting, crocheting or sewing to create prayer shawls and baby blankets for those in need. The shawls and baby blankets may be made from fabric, knitting or crocheting yarn. Suggested sizes for prayer shawls are: triangles 65" long and 32" center back, rectangle 19X69" or 14"X70". Those shawls and blankets will be on display in the Experience Hall area of Assembly 2010 in St. Louis, MO. At the end of the assembly, the shawls will be distributed to those in need. Some of the shawls will be available for a minimum of \$25 donation with proceeds going to UMW's Mission Giving. Deadline is Feb 21. Please contact Pat Fraver for more information.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

MARCH 22 AND 23

It's EGG time again!! Want to order one? For \$5.00 each, you can order a Coconut creme, Peanut butter, Chocolate Nut or Butter Cream 1/2 lb., decorated, boxed Easter Egg. See any handbell ringer. If you would like to help sell, please call Nancy Cox-. All orders must be received by March 7. Made by order only. Order forms will be distributed in February



YOU'RE INVITED.

TO OUR "EASTER EGG MAKING"

This is your personal invitation to help in the making of Easter Egg Monday, March 22 and Tuesday, March 23 from 8:00 a.m. to ? Evening hours--6 p.m. to ?on Monday, March 22.

On the job training, experience not needed! Men, women, teens, young adults welcome.

Come all day or however long you can stay! Ask anyone who has helped before--IT'S FUN!!

Delicious LUNCH served to helpers!! Questions? Call Nancy Cox



Oxford United Methodist Youth's Annual
Spaghetti Dinner
 Friday, February 13, 2010
 Watch for more information in the Sunday Bulletin!

WORD OF THANKS

Words can't express how much I appreciate all that you did to help one of our less fortunate families. You helped to make their holiday much more special. Thank you very much. – Lori Saporosa

I would like to thank the OUMW for the delicious fruit basket – Lydia Peoples

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

I wanted to thank everyone who contributed to financial gift I received this Christmas, along with the other kind remembrances. The opportunity to come to Oxford and serve with you has been a real blessing. Pastor Mark.

Becky would like to thank the members of the Oxford Church for the kind expressions of love sent to her while she has been struggling with her health. She and I have only warm feelings for the people of the church and pray that God may bless them as they join with you to serve Christ and his people in Oxford and the world. Once again thank you. - In Christ – Ben Taylor.

Methodist Home for Children – Thank you for your generous donation of toys & gifts! Because of your generosity, the children served by Methodist Home for Children were able to have a joyous Christmas – Thank you for thinking of MHC

I just heard recently that I was on your prayer list. I can't tell you how much that meant to me. – Beverly Coates

Thank you to the Oxford United Methodist Women for the fruit basket. It was delicious and greatly appreciated. May you all have a happy new year and a healthy one. God Bless all of you, Martha Klingler.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Alan Coates has been moved to Golden Living Center, 833 South Main Street, Phoenixville PA 19460. He would enjoy receiving well wishes from his friends at OUMC. Alan is Gladys Coates' son who was injured in a fall.

New address: Gladys Coates, Ware Presbyterian Village, 7 E. Locust Street, Oxford, Pa. 19363

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Rev. Sam Dixon, Director of UMCOR, Rev. Clinton Rabb, Mission Volunteers Program, and their families. These two gentleman were in Haiti when the devastating earthquake hit. Both gentlemen did not survive the collapse of the hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince.

2010 Trustees

In last month Advocate three names were mistakenly not listed; Charlie Hannum (2012), Bill Day (2012) and Ed Wilson (2012)

Also

Finance Committee

Krystal Spohn (2011) will serve a one year term

Upcoming Meetings

February 4, 2010 @ 7:30pm Ad Board

February 9, 2010 @ 7 pm Finance Committee

February 23, 2010 @ 7 pm Trustee Meeting

February 23, 2010 @ 7 pm Library Committee

Sunday School – Please remember to turn off the lights in the classrooms when leaving. Thank You

No doubt you have seen and heard the news of the devastating earthquake that has struck Haiti. As always, one of the first responders in this time of need is the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). You can donate directly to UMCOR, or place your district offering for Haiti in with your church offerings, At this time the other thing we can do (besides pray) is assemble health kits. Instructions for the health kits follow:

Health Kit (Value: \$12 per kit)

KIT CONTENTS

Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen towels)

1 washcloth

1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)

1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)

1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)

1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)

6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

(NOTE: UMCOR Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before it is sent. Please include \$1 for each kit you send toward the purchase of toothpaste.)

Important Kit Assembly Information

All items included in kits must be NEW items.

All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations.

Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items—nothing more. Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment

Tools for Ministry February 27, 2010
West Grove UMC 8:00 – 3:30

Tools for Ministry is essential training for clergy and lay persons from every congregation. Be energized in your ministry by inspiring speakers, relevant topics, and exciting new resources.

Workshop Descriptions

- Children Ministries: How to help children grow in faith.
- Evangelism: Evangelism in the Twenty-first Century
- Church Treasurers/Finance: How to do funding Ministries that Nurture Persons in their Faith.
- Stewardship: Stewardship Ministry in the Congregation, Using God's Resources Responsibly
- Trustees/Church Property: Show how to manage church property and investments.
- Youth Ministries: How to Build Ministry by, with, and for Youth.
- Church Vision: How to cultivate Vision for members to see what God is calling them to do.
- SPRC Committee: How to connect with the Pastor, Staff and Congregation to help focus on the mission of the church.

Agenda

- 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. - Registration check-in/continental breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Opening worship and Welcome
- Introductions (Workshop leaders, District Lay Leaders)
- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon - Plenary Session
- 12:00 noon - 12:30 p.m. - Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Afternoon Workshops

Cost: \$10 per person. To register, please see the pastor.

Special rewards will be presented to each church that sends (7) or more participants.

Your Name: _____

Church _____

District _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

First Choice Workshop _____

Second Choice Workshop _____

Day Care Requested? _____ Name and Age of Children _____

Make check payable to: "EPA Tools for Ministry '10"
Please note: Registration Deadline is February 8, 2010

There will be no onsite Registration

Please turn in your registration form to Pastor Terry