

The Advocate



June 2010

Happy Father's Day

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

610-932-9698

www.oumc-online.org

Office Fax 610.932.7602

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

Inside this Issue

Pastor's Corner	pg 2	OMW News	pg 4
Alpha Workshop	pg 5	VBS	pg 5
Youth trip to DC	pg 6	Using Your Spiritual Gifts	pg 9
Softball Schedule	pg 10	Harvest Fair	pg 11 & 12

Information for the Advocate is DUE by the 3rd Sunday of the month - Thank you for your cooperation.

PASTOR'S CORNER



Bi-Monthly Pagan Worship

Twice a month I have to take care that I don't break one of the Ten Commandments.

Actually every day I have to take care that I don't break any of the Ten Commandments, but I know that every month there are at least two days when I know I will be tempted to break Commandment Number One: You shall have no other gods before Me.

You see, I get paid twice a month by the church, and shortly after I get paid, I sit down to pay the bills. There are credit card bills, the phone/internet/TV bill, the cell-phone bill, my student loan bill (still paying for all that learnin' I did to become a pastor), the orthodontist bill, the auto loan bill and so on. And I have to figure out how much cash I need to keep on hand, and I need to set aside money for our offering each Sunday.

So, how am I on the verge of breaking Commandment Number One? Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21). Maybe you are familiar with this interpretation of that verse: "put your money with your mouth is."

When I sit down to budget my funds, if God is number one, then the number one thing I should do is set aside my offering to God. If my first priority is paying Verizon or Bank of America, then those are, essentially my gods.

I know it doesn't make much financial sense to pay God first, when God doesn't charge interest or late fees, and I confess that I have broken this commandment a number of times. But, what makes financial sense about offerings to God in the first place? What does God need with our money? The whole world is God's!

Our offerings are perhaps the most concrete way of staking our claim that God is greater than everything and God loves us and will bless us. When we short-change God to pay a bill we are saying we are more certain that the gas company can do something harmful to our lives than God can do something to help and protect us. When we short-change God so we can go out to eat, we are saying God cannot provide the same joy in our lives that Red Lobster can.

When you short-change God, you're not hurting God. When you short-change God, you are living in fear of the future rather than freeing yourself from worry. When you short-change God, you're short-changing yourself.

So, how do we free ourselves from fear, and give God what we should be giving? Start by figuring out what your tithe would be: What is 10% of your income? Then figure out what you are currently giving (or what you currently try to give). What would it take to get from there to tithing? Can you start taking baby steps toward that goal? One less dessert a week or one less coffee from WaWa? Make a giving plan for yourself, and write it down. And put it somewhere where you will see it often – like maybe in your checkbook. Make it harder for yourself to neglect giving to God.

So, come next payday, who will you worship?

Pastor Mark

	GREETERS	FLOWERS
June 6	Virginia Hardy	Elsie Watterson
June 13	Joe & Edith Poff	Available – Call the office
June 20	Children	Available – Call the office
June 27	Stella Pierce	Available – Call the office

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.

SUNDAY SERVICES

June 6	Scripture: 1 Kings 17:8 – 24, Luke 7:11 – 17 Sermon: Communing with the Dead Liturgist: Carlene Fretz
June 13	Scripture: Psalm 5:1 – 8, Luke 7:36 – 8:3 Sermon: Know Your Debt Liturgist: Lorraine Bruton
June 20	Scripture: Galatians 3:23 – 29, Luke 8:26 - 39 Sermon: No Longer in Protective Custody Liturgist: Lisa Summers
June 27	Scripture: Galatians 5:1- 13:25, Luke 9:51 - 62 Sermon: You Are What You Eat Liturgist: Denise Plaughter

2010 Lock up Schedule

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

*Please pray for the family of Helen Propst who went home to be with the Lord on
April 27, 2010*

.....
WORD OF THANKS

Union Fire Company No.1 – The Board of Directors and members of the Union Fire Company No. 1 would like to thank you for inviting our organization to your pancake breakfast on 4/24/10. The meal was excellent and the atmosphere was great. Once again we want to thank you and appreciate you including us in on this event. – Allen K. Fowler, President.

Thank you to my church family who are blessings to me with prayers, cards, phone calls and Pastor Terry’s visit. – With sincere appreciation – Richard W. Edwards

Oxford United Methodist Women News

Quiet Day Service / A Call to Prayer and Self Denial – “Property Makes Mission Possible”

June 15, 2010 @ 7:30 PM

Program Leader: *Pat Fraver*

Hostesses: *Pat Reese & Pat Fraver*

We’ll be having a Mission Movie Night. A DVD has been made all about the world wide missions UMW supports and we’ll be taking a look at it.

We will not meet July and August ~ Happy & Safe Summer

U.M. W. 2010 Reading Program

Just a reminder – 8 new books have been added to the UMW shelf in the library along with books from the past 5 years. They will qualify for the 2010 reading program as long as you haven’t received credit for that book in the past years. The easiest plan is to read 4 books, one from each category, (categories are color coded on the spine labels). You are also asked to read Response and The New World Outlook magazines regularly. A record is kept in the library of books you have read, so it’s easy to keep track. Last year we had 7 women complete the program, but it is open to everyone. The titles are diverse and cover a wide spectrum of topics. The deadline will be sometime in December. With summer months approaching, take some time out to do some reading. – Nancy Cooper & Jane Brown, Program Resources

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

June



26, 2010 – 7am to 10am

Buttermilk & Buckwheat pancakes, fresh fruit, dried beef or sausage gravy, oven roasted potatoes, sausage and specialty breads. \$6Adult~\$3Children (3-10)

Advance tickets can be purchased from Becky Kleinz or the church office; Tickets are also available at the door.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST REPORT- Last July we had our first monthly Pancake Breakfast. Begun as a money-making event, the breakfast has become so much more, as friendships and fellowship have developed over the months. This is a church-wide effort to help our church through financial hardship. If you have not yet participated by helping, selling or giving tickets, or by attending the breakfast, please offer your help; see Nancy Cox or Becky Kleinz. We would like to have more volunteers. You don't need to make a monthly commitment, but through the summer months especially we will need others to step in for those on vacation.

So far, through April, we have hosted eight breakfasts, having passed in December because of Christmas and February was canceled because of unpredictable weather and nasty driving/walking conditions. We average 165 people, which included 20-25 helpers. To date, we have profited over \$5800. All proceeds go to the church's General Fund; you can see what a worthwhile project this is. Come on out the 4th Saturday of every month and enjoy good food, fun, and fellowship.

Save the Date- Vacation Bible School! The High Seas Expedition is coming to Oxford United Methodist Church Sunday, July 25-Thursday, July 29 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. There are plenty of opportunities to serve the children of our church and community during this fun week, so clear some space on your calendar today!

VBS Craft Department – is asking for you to collect Poland Spring Water Aqua Pod plastic bottles. Collection box will be in the Thorne Room

Come to an Alpha Workshop! What is Alpha? It is an 8 week program that brings people together for fellowship and discussion around some of the basic questions of our faith. It is great for both outreach into the community and re-energizing current members of the church. 91% of churches surveyed who have done the program would do it again, and 98% would recommend it to other churches. There is an all-day workshop on June 12th in Gap. Sign up to go with the pastor so we can introduce this program this fall! Learn more about Alpha at www.alphausa.org/midatlantic.

We will be offering Junior Church for grades K-4 during the 11 am service this summer. Children will leave the regular service after the offering. We will begin on June 20, ***WE NEED VOLUNTEERS*** to teach. Teachers may plan their lesson or we can provide a lesson plan. Please contact Carol Hauser to volunteer.

.....

Senator Dominic Pileggi's Kid's Fun Fair

June 5, 2010 11am ~ 2pm

Lincoln University, Thurgood Marshall Living Learning Center

1570 Baltimore Pike, Lincoln University, Pa



DISTRICT INFORMATION

Any questions please contact Denise Plaughter @ 610.932.9035 or d.plaughter@zoominternet.net



SE District, Youth Trip to. Washington, D.C. 2010

What: Trip to visit the General Board of Church and Society on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., plus the Supreme Court, the Capitol building, and lunch with Obama*

*Keith Obama, chef at Panera Bread, Capitol Hill location :)

When: June 12, 2010 (Registrations Due by June 7 to southeastdistrictyouth@gmail.com)

Where: Meet at Ridley Park UMC, Travel by Bus

Time: 7:30 am-9:30 pm

Cost: \$30 (lunch, dinner, and transportation provided), scholarships available for student in need.

Middle School and High School are welcome! Adult chaperones provided, youth leaders are invited!

UNITED METHODIST NIGHT AT THE PHILLIES

Saturday, July 10th, 7 p.m., Citizens Bank Park, Home of the National League Champion Philadelphia Phillies.

Please get your ticket orders in as soon as possible. Due to the success of the Phillies, seats are going fast. If you have ordered tickets in the past, you can call your regular sales person at the Phillies. If you are new, please call Phillies representative Scott McDade at 215-218-5109. Please remind everyone that the money we raise goes to our UM ministries. We will be throwing out "the First Pitch" and singing the National Anthem. For further questions call UM Representative Ross Brightwell at 215-643-1269 or email him at rossbrightwell@verizon.net

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference School of Christian Mission will be held at West Lawn United Methodist Church in Reading Thursday, July 22 through Saturday, July 24, 2010.

The purpose of the school of Christian Mission is to help church leaders (lay and clergy, men and women, youth and children) understand and interpret the global mission of the church and the responsibility of Christians within that mission. Adults will have the opportunity to choose from three studies. The Spiritual Growth Study is For the Love of God: Epistles of John; the Issue Study is Joy to the World - Mission in the Age of Global Christianity and the Geographic Study is The Beauty and Courage of Sudan. The Youth Study is a focus on Mission and Evangelism called I'm Living the Faith. The Children's study is Hugging the World: Faith Hope and Love in Action. United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, pastors, chairpersons of local Work Areas on Mission and all laity interested in mission should attend. The cost for adults is \$130 and includes meals. Youth and children attend at a reduced rate. For more information, the school website is www.gbgm-umc.org/umw-epac/SOCM.htm, or contact Joan Sowers at gsowers@mbcomp.com or 717-272-4279.

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

LAITY ACADEMY, Growing, Sharing and Living Our Faith, August 6-8, 2010 (Friday – Sunday), Langhorne, PA

New Location, New Workshops, Special Events

Workshops include:

Two CSM Basic Courses;

Ministry with the Poor in the 21st Century;

Young Adults: Is Anybody Listening;

Dealing with the Crisis in the Body of Christ, Laity Empowered by God's Wisdom and Love:

Leading in Mission Outreach;

Evangelism is more than Testimony;

Getting Beyond the Worship Wars!

Registration Information to Follow – Contact Denise Plaugher with any questions (610-932-9035;

d.plaugher@zoominternet.net)

FACTS about your FAITH

Our Wesleyan Theological Heritage

Distinctive Emphases

Wesley and the early Methodists were particularly concerned about inviting people to experience God's grace and to grow in their knowledge and love of God through disciplined Christian living. They placed primary emphasis on Christian living, on putting faith and love into action. This emphasis on what Wesley referred to as "practical divinity" has continued to be a hallmark of United Methodism today. The distinctive shape of our theological heritage can be seen not only in this emphasis on Christian living, but also in Wesley's distinctive understanding of God's saving grace. Although Wesley shared with many other Christians a belief in salvation by grace, he combined them in a powerful way to create distinctive emphases for living the full Christian life.

Read more from the Book of Discipline.

Grace

Grace is central to our understanding of Christian faith and life. Grace can be defined as the love and mercy given to us by God because God wants us to have it, not because of anything we have done to earn it. We read in the Letter to the Ephesians: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Our United Methodist heritage is rooted in a deep and profound understanding of God's grace. This incredible grace flows from God's great love for us. Did you have to memorize John 3:16 in Sunday school when you were a child? There was a good reason. This one verse summarizes the gospel: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." The ability to call to mind God's love and God's gift of Jesus Christ is a rich resource for theology and faith." John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, described God's grace as threefold: prevenient grace, justifying grace, sanctifying grace.

Excerpt from What Every Teacher Needs to Know About Theology, 29-33. Used by permission.

Prevenient Grace

Wesley understood grace as God’s active presence in our lives. This presence is not dependent on human actions or human response. It is a gift—a gift that is always available, but that can be refused. God’s grace stirs up within us a desire to know God and empowers us to respond to God’s invitation to be in relationship with God. God’s grace enables us to discern differences between good and evil and makes it possible for us to choose good....God takes the initiative in relating to humanity. We do not have to beg and plead for God’s love and grace. God actively seeks us!

Excerpt from *What Every Teacher Needs to Know About Theology*, p. 31. Used by permission.

Justifying Grace

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth: “In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them” (2 Corinthians 5:19). And in his letter to the Roman Christians, Paul wrote: “But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

These verses demonstrate the justifying grace of God. They point to reconciliation, pardon, and restoration. Through the work of God in Christ our sins are forgiven, and our relationship with God is restored. According to John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, the image of God—which has been distorted by sin—is renewed within us through Christ’s death. Again, this dimension of God’s grace is a gift. God’s grace alone brings us into relationship with God. There are no hoops through which we have to jump in order to please God and to be loved by God. God has acted in Jesus Christ. We need only to respond in faith.

Excerpt from *What Every Teacher Needs to Know About Theology*, p. 31-32.

Conversion

This process of salvation involves a change in us that we call conversion. Conversion is a turning around, leaving one orientation for another. It may be sudden and dramatic, or gradual and cumulative. But in any case, it’s a new beginning. Following Jesus’ words to Nicodemus, “You must be born anew” (John 3:7 RSV), we speak of this conversion as rebirth, new life in Christ, or regeneration.

Following Paul and Luther, John Wesley called this process justification. Justification is what happens when Christians abandon all those vain attempts to justify themselves before God, to be seen as “just” in God’s eyes through religious and moral practices. It’s a time when God’s “justifying grace” is experienced and accepted, a time of pardon and forgiveness, of new peace and joy and love. Indeed, we’re justified by God’s grace through faith.

Justification is also a time of repentance—turning away from behaviors rooted in sin and toward actions that express God’s love. In this conversion we can expect to receive assurance of our present salvation through the Holy Spirit “bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:16).

Excerpt from *The United Methodist Member's Handbook*, p. 78-79.

Sanctifying Grace

Salvation is not a static, one-time event in our lives. It is the ongoing experience of God’s gracious presence transforming us into whom God intends us to be. John Wesley described this dimension of God’s grace as sanctification, or holiness. (Excerpt from *What Every Teacher Needs to Know About Theology*, p. 32-33)

Through God’s sanctifying grace, we grow and mature in our ability to live as Jesus lived. As we pray, study the Scriptures, fast, worship, and share in fellowship with other Christians, we deepen our knowledge of and love for God. As we respond with compassion to human need and work for justice in our communities, we strengthen our capacity to love thy neighbor. Our inner thoughts and motives, as well as our outer actions and behavior, are aligned with God’s will and testify to our union with God. (Excerpt from *What Every Teacher Needs to Know About Theology*, p. 32-33)

We’re to press on, with God’s help, in the path of sanctification toward perfection. By perfection, Wesley did not mean that we would not make mistakes or have weaknesses. Rather, he understood it to be a continual process of being made perfect in our love of God and each other and of removing our desire to sin. (Adapted from *Who Are We? Doctrine*,

Ministry, and the Mission of The United Methodist Church, Revised: Leader's Guide by Kenneth L. Carder, Cokesbury, p.46.)

Read more from the Book of Discipline

Read John Wesley's sermon, "Christian Perfection"

Faith and Good Works

United Methodists insist that faith and good works belong together. What we believe must be confirmed by what we do. Personal salvation must be expressed in ministry and mission in the world. We believe that Christian doctrine and Christian ethics are inseparable, that faith should inspire service. The integration of personal piety and social holiness has been a hallmark of our tradition. We affirm the biblical precept that "faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (James 2:17).

Excerpt from The United Methodist Primer, 2005 Revised Edition by Chester E. Custer (Discipleship Resources, 2005); p.59.

Mission and Service

Because of what God has done for us, we offer our lives back to God through a life of service. As disciples, we become active participants in God's activity in the world through mission and service. Love of God is always linked to love of neighbor and to a passionate commitment to seeking justice and renewal in the world.

Nurture and Mission of the Church

For Wesley, there was no religion but social religion, no holiness but social holiness. In other words, faith always includes a social dimension. One cannot be a solitary Christian. As we grow in faith through our participation in the church community, we are also nourished and equipped for mission and service to the world.

"From Wesley's time to the present, Methodism has sought to be both a nurturing community and a servant community. Members of Methodist Societies and class meetings met for personal nurture through giving to the poor, visiting the imprisoned, and working for justice and peace in the community. They sought not only to receive the fullness of God's grace for themselves; but...they saw themselves as existing 'to reform the nation...and to spread scriptural holiness over the land'"

Excerpt from Who Are We? : Doctrine, Ministry, and the Mission of The United Methodist Church, Revised: Leader's Guide by

Kenneth L. Carder, (Cokesbury), p. 55.

source: www.umc.org

BIBLE STUDY - "USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS" - WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, JUNE 9 through AUGUST 31 (No meeting July 28 due to Vacation Bible School). Scripture teaches that as Christians, we all have spiritually-endowed abilities over which God calls us to be stewards. The Bible refers to these special abilities as "spiritual gifts." In 1 Peter 4:10 we are told: "As each one has received a special gift, employ it serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." The fact that every Christian has at least one gift emphasizes each individual's importance in God's kingdom work.

Sadly though, most Christians don't know what gifts they possess, much less how to use them. Let's spend time together, focused on studying the Bible, with the blessing of material that will challenge us to examine our spiritual health.

Please bring snacks if you like. Materials cost \$10 if 10 or more people sign up; \$13 if we have less than 10 people. Please contact Lay Leader Denise Plaughter to sign up - 610-932-9035, or d.plaughter@zoominternet.net. God Bless.

Quarterly "Birthday Celebration". Please join us in Fellowship Hall for cake and punch, June 27th following the 11:00AM service. We will be celebrating April, May and June birthdays. Everyone is welcome!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3 Andrew Chapman

8 Virginia Fulton

9 Donna Stoneback

9 Marie Ayers

9 Jean Lindenmuth

9 Leah Baird

11 Kristopher Cruz

12 Courtney Carroll

12 Brendan Shearn

14 Louise Adams

15 Kelly Benson

16 Bill Day

16 Mark Plaughter

17 Brad Fraver

17 Pat Reese

19 June Conner

20 Erica Manata

22 Barry Mason

23 Andrew Shearn

24 James Bruton

26 Ruth McMaster

27 Brad Everett

27 Kyle Williams

28 Evelyn Barsky

SOFTBALL GAMES

6/1	Oxford Methodist vs. Cornerstone Presbyterian	Home field/Bethany Orthodox Church field
6/2	Oxford/Avon Grove Nazarene vs. Oxford Methodist	Little Britain Elementary School field
6/7	Oxford Methodist vs. New London Christian Life Center	Home field
6/10	Manor Presbyterian vs. Oxford Methodist	Manor Presbyterian field
6/14	The Grove vs. Oxford Methodist	Manor Presbyterian field
6/17	New London Christian Life Center vs. Oxford Methodist	New London field

Come out and support your team. All games start at 6:30pm. Playoff schedule to follow

Artists & Craftsmen Wanted

Oxford United Methodist Church

Market & Addison St.
In Historic Oxford, PA

For Our 8th Annual



HARVEST FAIR

An Outdoor Arts & Crafts Event

Saturday, October 9, 2010

Rain date ~ Oct. 16th

Collectables

Auction 9am!

Memorabilia

CRAFT SHOW 10-4

Featuring

Traditional Skills & Handcrafted Items

MUSIC ★ FOOD ★ GAMES

Enter to Win 'Harvest Your Talent' Contests

Pie Baking ★ Chili Challenge

Giant Pumpkin ★ Noah's Pumpkin Characters

Call Church for Craft & Contest Info: 610.932.9698 / www.oumc-online.org

Oxford United Methodist Church

8th Annual

Harvest Fair

Market & Addison Sts.
In Historic Oxford, PA



Dear Artists & Craftsmen,

You are cordially invited to apply to join 45 original artists & craftsmen for our 2010 HARVEST FAIR. It is an exciting Outdoor Arts & Crafts Event, featuring traditional skills and handcrafted items, with demonstrations throughout the day. There will be a live auction at 9 am! The day includes music, homemade food, children's games, Pie Baking & Giant Pumpkin contests, and a Chili Challenge. There will also be an 'All God's Critters' Pumpkin Decorating contest, the 2010 theme is 'Noah's Ark'. The CRAFT SHOW is 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. Come and enjoy the day in Southern Chester County!

To apply, complete the information on the lower portion of this page and return to OUMC for review by the HF Committee. Please include a description of your skill or craft, two(2) pictures of items that you have made, one(1) picture of your show display, and a S.A.S.E. Completed applications will be processed in the order in which they are received.

Deadline is August 1, 2010. No wholesale or direct sales please.

Saturday, October 9, 2010

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Rain Date: October 16, 2010

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Reserved for Severe Weather System
Be prepared for wind or rain showers

For more info. and updates visit: www.oumc-online.org
OUMC church office: Tues. - Fri., 9-2, 610.932.9698
HF Committee Representative: eveready@epix.net

- * \$ 40 for 13'W x 13'D Main Lot space
- \$ 60 for XL 18'W x 13'D Main Lot
- \$ 25 for 10' x 10' Sidewalk Path
- * Bring own tables & weighted tents
- \$ 10 table or electric rental if needed
- * Set up 7 - 10:00 a.m.
- Vehicles **MUST** be removed from Craft Show lots by 9:30
- * Please stay until 4:00
- * Parking & shuttle provided

Please complete and return to:

OUMC/HARVEST FAIR
18 ADDISON STREET
OXFORD, PA 19363



Name _____
Address _____
Phone # _____
Type of craft _____

Include: Craft Pictures (2), Display Picture (1), Self Addressed Stamped Envelope

Main Lot space \$ 40.00 X _____ = _____
 Main Lot XLg \$ 60.00 X _____ = _____
 Sidewalk Path \$ 25.00 X _____ = _____
 Table rental if needed \$ 10.00 X _____ = _____
 Electric if needed \$ 10.00 X _____ = _____
 TOTAL _____

How did you hear of event?

- Newspaper
- Cable TV
- Flyer
- Online
- Other _____

Please make check or money order payable to OUMC/HARVEST FAIR