

## ON LENT

Lent is a time to end the power of sin and renew the strength of faith. The word “Lent” is derived from an old English word meaning spring, when the days are lengthened from the shorter days of winter. The church sets apart a time of 40 days (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday so that the faithful may be drawn into a deeper spirit of renewal and conversion.



Lent is a time to quietly appreciate what Jesus sacrificed for his followers. Many associate Lent with making resolutions about what we are going to give up, whether it is chocolate, or swearing, or skipping out on worship or whatever. But we ought to adapt our way of thinking about faith not so much in giving up something, but adding something that makes us better persons. I like what Pope Francis said recently. He said, “We should fast from indifference toward others.” (Time Magazine, Feb. 18, 2015). A challenge I issued at the Ash Wednesday services to the congregation is to fast one meal each day during Lent (if you are healthy enough to do so) and to donate the money you would have spent on those meals to the Marshallton United Methodist food closet.

Also, Our Millcreek Ministerium and our participating churches are offering prayer services and sermons to encourage a time of contemplation. The offering collected during these services will benefit Family Promise of Northern New Castle County, which helps to temporarily house families who find themselves homeless. These short worship services will be every Wednesday during Lent at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church at 12 noon, followed by a soup and bread lunch. Each week, a different pastor will offer a meditation along with music to facilitate our journey into the mystery of the life, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

More than anything, Lent is a time of preparation. We cannot truly appreciate Easter if we are unwilling to contemplate and imitate the unconditional love Jesus had for all people. We must also remember what it was that he was willing to die for and then to dedicate ourselves to the same vision and mission. Let us keep a holy Lent together.

Your brother in Christ,

*Pastor Joe*

Pastor Joe

## TRUSTEES

It seems the Trustees are always delivering troubling news. However, your prayers and forbearance see us through.

The elevator failed again, last month; this time on a weekend. But we old folks showed what we were made of; we climbed those steps for worship. An apology is certainly due the Lewis family. Ernie's funeral was very large and the elevator was not working.

However, we did become operational again by replacing a motor. Then the regulator went bad.

I have met with the elevator repair company and again there is assurance that we have a top quality elevator, but it is eight years old and we will have failures. Therefore, we are going to maintain a repair/preventative maintenance fund.

There was a bequest from Catherine Jenkins to the church. Approximately \$8,000 of the total bequest was designated for a preventative and repair fund for the elevator. Unfortunately, we already owe over \$3,000 from this fund.

We need to reinstate donations to the elevator fund. It is suggested that we begin to offer \$1.00 per month to keep this fund solvent.

Your consideration to provide this donation is greatly appreciated.

Despite the horrendous winter so far, David Leager is keeping us clean and we are not too far in debt. To date we owe \$1,230.

No progress on piano – Still in Fellowship Hall.

We have completed the project of organizing the area where the organ is setting to a safe place. The drums are stored elsewhere and the wires are placed out of harm's way.

No progress on widening driveway. However, our State Representative has had indication of a light of some type, thus the garage torn down. This demolition may be for that project or the round-a-bout scheduled for spring.

The school plans to replace the floorcovering in the kitchen and a new toddlers playground will be installed.

In conjunction with this new playground, the Trustees will need to move the old FRP shed and inventory contents and dispose of contents not worth keeping. See Billy Snyder.

The costs of the flooring and playground will be absorbed from a grant awarded to the school from Crystal Trust.

We are grateful to our congregation, the school for their gifts and the blessings bestowed on this church.

Blessings to all,

Betty Tull

## MISSIONS REPORT

### Operation Christmas Child

I received a report from the Northern Delmar office of Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child regarding the results of the 2014 Shoe Box Campaign. You should be pleased to hear what God did through you and people in other participating churches in 2014. Because of our collective prayers, efforts, and commitment, the Northern Delmar Area Team collected **7,695** shoebox gifts (Gospel Opportunities). This is an increase of nearly **2%** from 2013. Some churches have reported that the numbers were a little disappointing. On balance throughout the Mid Atlantic, we collect 1 box for every 36 people. In Delaware, we collect 1 box for every 23 people!!! Hence, we have the best percentage of shoeboxes according to population in the Mid Atlantic! **Well done team!**

The report stated that we are also celebrating God's provision of **10,440,333** shoebox gifts from around the world with **7,991,643** coming from the U.S. Our Mid-Atlantic region collected **1,023,125**, becoming the first region ever to reach the **1 million** mark. We give glory to God for His provision of these Gospel opportunities. This is testament to the hard work, dedication, and prayers of dedicated "good Samaritan's" like yourselves.

Further the report stated as you may know, for first time, this year our region hosted a **Processing Center**. Over **530,000** boxes were processed and shipped from the **BWI Processing Center** to children around the world. Also over **60,000** boxes were airlifted from BWI airport to Northern Iraq. These special boxes were distributed to children displaced by ISIS and living in refugee camps. What a privilege to bring hope and a smile to these hurting children.

And finally the report presented the following: As we praise God for what He has done in 2014, we want to start the 2015 OCC season asking the Lord to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. So, please join us in praying for:

- Every child who will be receiving a box would know the saving grace of Jesus Christ.
- For many children to enroll in **the Greatest Journey** Discipleship Program.
- For the 2015 Mid-Atlantic Regional Goal of **1,123,456** and the U.S. goal of **8.6 million** shoebox gifts.
- For God to call more people to serve as part of your area team. We want you to especially pray for God to raise the right person to serve as **the Area Coordinator**. This is critical for us to continue to grow the ministry in the area.

Again, we are thankful for each of you and your commitment to serve Him through OCC

### Family Promise

This is an advance notice that our first 2 nights of supporting St. James Episcopal Church for the Family Promise families will occur in April. We had good support for preparing meals in 2014, adequate support for the socializing with the families after the meals, but limited support for the overnight duties. If you did not participate in this activity in 2014, please prayerfully consider being a part of this worthy and rewarding effort this year. We especially invite some others step forward to be overnight hosts for one or more of our six night commitment. I will have a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in March. Please contact me if you have questions or want to discuss details of being a participant.

**In His name and in His Service,  
Tom Pesiky, Missions Chair**

**“Deacon News”:** What Circuit Highlights can I share?

Lots of great stuff is happening!

## **SHARING IN MISSIONS**

I know some are wondering how we can do ministry together without doing everything and getting spread too thin. Well, we’ve identified 4 mission areas where we’d like to see all 3 congregations in the Circuit participate, and then the rest can stay independently run. Of course all are welcome at all mission opportunities but we’ve targeted 4 where we’d really like to see us work together this year. These are:

- Urban Promise. Thanks for the greatly successful recent support for “Soup for the Soul! There will be other UP opportunities this year.
- Operation Christmas Child, which we all already do,
- The Food Closet on Thursday nights at Marshallton, and
- Family Promise (Coming up! See below).

Food can be dropped off at MUMC any day for the food closet. Please let us know if you are interested in being one of the teams that works 6:30-7:30 on Thursday nights on a rotating basis. If you’d rather collect food at your location, call to arrange a pick-up.

We will also share in some specific special events and discipleship ministries. Read On!

### **FAMILY PROMISE Week Approaches! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED April 5-12<sup>th</sup>.**

Marshallton has been a support congregation for Family Promise ministry since January of 2014. We welcome members from Cedars and Christ UMCs to help out this year! You will certainly be blessed through this hands-on ministry to those in need!

Family Promise of Northern New Castle County is a network of 15 congregations who house up to 4 homeless families in our houses of worship for a week at a time, 3 to 4 times each year, while the staff of Family Promise helps them to regain their independence. Family Promise keeps families together and gives a hand UP not just a hand OUT. These 15 host congregations are supported by another about 15 congregations who supply volunteers and meals. Marshallton UMC is a support congregation to the host congregation at St. James Episcopal Church of Mill Creek. Families come to the church about 6pm and leave about 6-7am daily. Families will be staying at St. James from April 5 (Easter Sunday) through Sunday April 12 and we will supply volunteers and supplies for two of these 7 nights (TBD). We need cooks for 2 dinners for up to 20 people each, (including our small team of volunteers), a couple evening visitors to visit from dinner until about 8:30 and overnight volunteers for each of 2 nights who sleep in the office (on a comfy double-layer air mattress) and see the families off in the morning. We will be sharing in the pre-week food shopping as well for breakfast and lunch items. Volunteer training (about 1.5 hours) and background checks are required and will be scheduled at a time convenient to new volunteers. Please contact Deacon Kymm 302-379-5105 or [kymm.k.hockman@dupont.com](mailto:kymm.k.hockman@dupont.com) or Tom [Pesikey at tspesikey@comcast.net](mailto:Pesikey@tspesikey@comcast.net) if interested in helping out the week of April 5-12<sup>th</sup>. Our next host opportunity will be in June, and another in August, when we do it all again. Please join us in this meaningful mission opportunity!

## **ALPHA IS COMING TO THE CIRCUIT!**

Monday evenings, **beginning April 6<sup>th</sup>**, Sharon O'Connor and her team (being formed) will begin Alpha - a discipleship outreach program. The Alpha course is a practical introduction to the Christian faith and is open to anyone. Each week, guests gather for about two hours. They share an informal meal, and listen to a talk (video) on how Christianity approaches the question at hand, then gather into small groups for discussion. There are fifteen talks covering the basic principles of the Christian faith given over a ten-week period, including a day or weekend getaway in the middle.

Alpha answers questions like: "Who is Jesus?," and "Why did he die?" Alpha is for everyone, especially those wanting to investigate Christianity, new Christians, newcomers to the church, and those wanting to brush up on the basics. Alpha is for a group of any size. It is relaxed, nonthreatening, low key, friendly and fun.

This is a great way to bring the 3 congregations together and at the same time reach out to our communities. Mark your calendars now - plan to attend and to BRING a friend – especially one with questions and perhaps without a regular church home.

We are looking for table planning team members, discussion facilitators, and cooks for the program. Please contact Sharon O'Connor at 302-545-3961 or [sharon1960@hotmail.com](mailto:sharon1960@hotmail.com).

## **Early Summer Christian Music & BYO Picnic Event! Mark your calendars!**

On Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4-7pm, bring family and friends, and a picnic dinner to the lawn of Christ UMC for an afternoon of Christian music offered by local musical talent. We are forming a planning team now. Contact Deacon Kymm to help us plan. ([kymm.k.hockman@dupont.com](mailto:kymm.k.hockman@dupont.com) or 302-379-5105)

## **SOME THOUGHTS FOR OUR YOUTH**

At Youth Group, we have been talking about Jacob's son, Joseph, who, quite frankly, isn't really having the best time right now. So far, we've seen him be rejected by his brothers, thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, accused of a crime he didn't commit, and thrown in jail. There isn't a lot of good happening in his life right now, but we're getting there!

For a lot of kids, the worst part about the day after Christmas is not that a toy isn't working or that there's no more hot turkey in the oven. Do you know what the worst part is? Being forced to wait another 364 days until the next Christmas! Am I right? How many of you experienced this as a kid? It's so fun building all the anticipation with the gifts under the tree, wondering what you might be receiving. And Christmas morning is epic, of course. But then you realize it's all over and now you have to be PATIENT for another year to have the same experience!

Patience is not something humans are generally good at. We live in a culture where anything we want is at the tip of our fingers. All you need is a smartphone and two thumbs, and you can order the newest video game, have a pizza delivered to your front door, or buy a pet giraffe. (Okay, I'm not sure about that last one, but I bet there's a way!). When we are told we must wait for something, it's as if someone told us we're never getting it ever! We throw our hands up in frustration and pray that God would make our lives easier. Isn't that sad, but true?

So far in Joseph's life, we have read about a lot of bad things happening. Yet Joseph has not said one negative thing about God. He has continued to be patient and trust in God's plan. And today we're going to continue the story of Joseph and learn how that patience pays off.

I challenge you to read Genesis 40:1-23 (There are a lot of verses there, so make sure you have a little bit of time)

- So what happened here? Joseph is just hanging out in his prison cell when an opportunity falls in his lap. Joseph once had a dream from God about how he would rule over his brothers. God was now giving him the chance to interpret other people's dreams.
- So he goes for it. He interprets their dreams with God's help. And he turns out to be right! His one request to the cup-bearer was that he would remember Joseph and plead to Pharaoh for some help, but the cup-bearer forgets him. Wouldn't that be incredibly frustrating?!
- Joseph's patience here must have been getting thin. He had been through so much, to no fault of his own. But his story is on the verge of a break-through.

I have another challenge for you....read Genesis 41:1-36 (again, this is a lot, but I know you can do it!!)

- Finally some hope has come for Joseph! But it took two years for the cup-bearer to remember. He didn't really have a choice either way, but that shows incredible patience.

Here's my last challenge. Read Genesis 41:37-44

- WOW! Talk about a turnaround! From a pit, to slavery, to prison, to second-in-command of the nation of Egypt!
- In this moment I believe Joseph received a full understanding of why he went through so many trials and so much suffering. God always had an amazing plan, and this is how God fulfilled Joseph's dream.
- But in order to realize God's plan for his life, Joseph had to remain patient during the trials!

Patience is not an easy thing. It's a learned discipline. But if you can learn to trust in Jesus' plan for your life, he will lead you through the trials because he loves you! He wouldn't have died on the cross or have risen from the grave if he didn't love you!

So where in your life do you need more patience? Who is that person in your life who can benefit from your patience? Maybe it's a sibling, or a classmate, or a teammate. Whoever it is, remember that Jesus loves them too, and God is asking you to be patient. You never know what God is going to do with your life because you were patient.

### **YOUTH GROUP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

I am reminded, each and every time I am around our youth, that our God is very real and relevant in their lives. I am always amazed at their depth of understanding. As I write this, we are less than two weeks away from the 30 Hour Famine, and I am getting very excited...for two reasons. The Famine experience can be a super cool team building/bonding experience for any group, but most of all, I can't wait to see what happens as we fast, pray and spend this extended time together. The Holy Spirit always shows up!

During the months of January and February, we have been studying about Jacobs's sons....and Joseph in particular. What an example of sibling rivalry, resisting temptation....and of following God's will for one's life...despite the cost. After the Famine, we will be working on our second annual "Walk with Jesus" event.

Our Sunday morning Sunday School class has been about reading the Bible. We are currently studying the book of Genesis....and will be working our way through the entire Bible this year....studying key stories in each of the 66 books. We even have our very own Bibles for use in class that we will be taking home at the end of the study.

If you are in grades 6-12 and would like to learn more about our youth group, please contact me (cell 302-545-3961 or email [sharon1960@hotmail.com](mailto:sharon1960@hotmail.com)) with any questions. Also, feel free to "like" our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/GTYMarshalltonUMC>). Also, if you are an adult, and would like to make a difference in the lives of our young members, I would love to hear from you.

God's blessings to all of you!

*Sharon*

### ***NEEDED ITEMS FOR THE "KITCHEN SHOWER"***

The kitchen is running low on the following supplies:

- Tall white garbage bags – drawstring - 13 gallon
- Black garbage bags – drawstring – 30 gallon
- 7 oz. cups for hot or cold beverages
- 7" plates
- Dishwashing soap ("Dawn")
- Napkins
- Zip Lock bags – Gallon and Quart size

Any items you would care to donate would be very much appreciated!

MARSHALLTON UNITED METHODIST WOMEN GENERAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 AT 2:00PM - CHURCH LOUNGE

1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY  
MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>, 8:45AM AND 11:00AM - FREE ESTIMATES AT THE BODY SHOP  
"THE LORD TRANSFORMS AND FIXES ALL MAKES AND MODELS"

**MARSHALLTON/CEDARS UMM - M.I.C.E. GATHERING – FELLOWSHIP HALL  
FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 27 FROM 6:00PM – 7:30PM  
REV. TOM LAYMON WILL BE THE SPEAKER**

MARCH OF DIMES VENDOR AND CRAFT SHOW - FELLOWSHIP HALL  
SATURDAY, MARCH 28 FROM 9:00-1:00PM - SILENT AUCTION, BAKE SALE AND FOOD  
CONTACT LAUREN TEMPLE FOR DETAILS - 302-290-4644





*DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH, 2015*

***GOD'S PRAYERFUL WORD***

<b>SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT</b>			16	Psalm 13	
1	2 Chronicles	5:1-14	17	Psalm 30	
2	2 Chronicles	6:1-11	18	Psalm 31	
3	2 Chronicles	6:12-42	19	Psalm 32	
4	2 Chronicles	7:1-22	20	Psalm 33	
5	2 Chronicles	34:1-33	21	Psalm 34	
<b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER</b>			<b>FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT</b>		
6	2 Chronicles	35:1-19	22	Hebrews	1:1-14
7	Ezra	8:1-23	23	Hebrews	2:1-18
<b>THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT</b>			24	Hebrews	3:1-19
8	Nehemiah	9:1-38	25	John	11:1-16
9	Daniel	9:1-19	26	John	11:17-44
10	1 Samuel	1:1-28	27	John	11:45-57
11	1 Samuel	2:1-11	28	John	12:1-11
12	Psalm 4		<b>PALM / PASSION SUNDAY</b>		
13	Psalm 5		29	John	12:12-26
14	Psalm 11		30	John	12:27-50
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT</b>			31	John	17:1-26
15	Psalm 12				

BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES FOR MARCH, 2015



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

<i>MARCH</i>				<i>APRIL</i>	
<i>2</i>	<i>Pam Records</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Virgie Arbogast "101"</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Sharon Hayden</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Sandy Weber</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Bill Buchanan</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Sherron Long</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Jacquelyn Kelso</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Louise Schilling</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Cheryl Jackson</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Elinor Poole</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Joanne Mergenthaler</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Matthew Howell</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>Kasayus Ferguson/Cunningham</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>Dorothy Warwick</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Anna Kuhar</i>
<i>10</i>	<i>Rick Cope</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Amy Maguire</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Randall Johns</i>



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

<i>MARCH</i>				<i>APRIL</i>	
				<i>11</i>	<i>Mary Jane &amp; Charles Graham</i>

## MARCH, 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00am-Praise & Worship 11:00am-Worship Service 4:30-5:30pm - Tutoring 6:30pm - Youth Group	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>2:00pm - UMW            General Mtg. - Church            Lounge</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>8:0am-1:00pm - MUMS            Childrens Clothing            Sale - Donations are            welcome</b>	<b>7</b> <b>8:0am-Noon - MUMS            Childrens Clothing            Sale</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00am-Praise & Worship 11:00am-Worship Service 4:30-5:30pm - Tutoring 6:30pm - Youth Group	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:30am - Alice Ball Circle Mtg. 6:30pm - Praise Team 7:45pm - Chancel Choir	<b>11</b> 10:30am - Marian Rowe Circle Mtg. 6:30 - Celebrate Recovery 12-Step Bible Study	<b>12</b> 1:30pm, 7:00pm - Disc. 2 Bible Study 6:30-7:30pm - Food Closet	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 - Bring a Friend            Sunday</b> 9:00am-Praise & Worship 11:00am-Worship Service 4:30-5:30pm - Tutoring 6:30pm - Youth Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30pm - Praise Team 7:00pm - Rebekah Circle Mtg. 7:45pm - Chancel Choir	<b>18</b> 10:30am - Marian Rowe Circle Mtg.                      Noon - Lenten Service & Lunch St. Mark's UMC 6:30 - Celebrate Recovery 12-Step Bible Study	<b>19</b> 1:30pm, 7:00pm - Disc. 2 Bible Study 6:30-7:30pm - Food Closet	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>4:00--7:00pm - Annual            Spaghetti Dinner            Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00am-Praise & Worship 11:00am-Worship Service 4:30-5:30pm - Tutoring 6:30pm - Youth Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30pm - Praise Team 7:45pm - Chancel Choir	<b>25</b> Noon - Lenten Service & Lunch St. Mark's UMC 6:30 - Celebrate Recovery 12-Step Bible Study	<b>26</b> 1:30pm, 7:00pm - Disc. 2 Bible Study 6:30-7:30pm - Food Closet	<b>27</b> <b>6:00-7:30pm - UMM            M.I.C.E. Gathering            Fellowship Hall</b>	<b>28</b> <b>9:00am-1:00pm -            March of Dimes            Vendor &amp; CraftShow            Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>29 PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:00am-Praise & Worship 11:00am-Worship Service 4:30-5:30pm - Tutoring 6:30pm - Youth Group	<b>30</b> <b>7:00pm - Missions            Team Mtg.</b>	<b>31</b> 6:30pm - Praise Team 7:45pm - Chancel Choir	<b>April 2nd            Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>April 3rd            Good Friday</b>	<b>April 4th            Fish &amp; Chips</b>	<b>April 5th            Easter Sunday</b>