

The Messenger

August 2006

Picnic at Ber Vaughn Park

On July 8, we held our annual Church Picnic at Ber Vaughn Park. The weather was beautiful, there was plenty of food and great fellowship. We began by eating (of course!) and everyone wanted the recipe for Margie's Turkey Waldorf salad. Yum, yum. There were hot dogs, barbeque, ziti and other meat dishes along with side dishes like potato and macaroni salads, corn pudding, and a wonderful assortment of delicious desserts. Sami Dauber brought friends to help her celebrate her birthday (which was the 8th). The youth enjoyed playing on the playground equipment (of which there is a wide variety from swings and teeter totters to modern jungle gyms) while the adults cleaned up the picnic lunch. After that, the adults passed the time talking and enjoying each other's company and the youth went swimming. The pool area contains three pools; a wading pool for infants and toddlers, a mid-size one for youth to 12 years old and the large pool. The large pool is T-shaped with the bottom stem being the diving area and a long top crossbar as the main pool area which goes from 3½ feet to 5 feet deep.

All in all, it was a delightful and relaxing day and we were able to spend many cheerful hours in each other's company.

PACKS FOR BACKS PROJECT

The Packs for Backs Project started three years ago. Margie Good saw a need for underprivileged children to receive a backpack, crayons, pens, pencils, folders, notebooks, notebook paper, tooth brushes, toothpaste and other necessary school supplies that are not provided by the school districts.

Some of you may have seen the segments on the television news about it recently. Some of you mentioned an interest in helping with it. If you would like to donate a backpack or other traditional school supplies, you may bring them to the church and she will see that they are distributed to those youngsters who need them. The students prefer the backpacks with two straps because their books and homework will not fit into the "sling" type of bags. They also avoid "Trapper Keepers" because they cannot go into their desks. Thank you for asking about the program and for your participation with it.

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Inside this issue:

Calendar of Events	p. 2
Old River Church	p. 2
From the Pastor	p. 2
From One of Our Own	p.3
Thank You's	p. 4
Around Our Community	p. 4
Congregational Corner	p. 4
Twilighters	p. 4
Youth Group Outing	p. 4
Youth Achievements	p. 4
UCC News	p. 5
Volunteer Schedule	p. 5
Birthdays and Anniversaries	p. 5

Calendar Of Events

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

August 6

The Worship Service on August 6 will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Coffee Hour will be held after the Worship Service.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES

We will discontinue our Wednesday Evening Service for the month of August and resume in September. We hope you have an enjoyable summer.

TWILIGHTERS MEETING

August 9

The Twilighters will meet on August 9 at 12:00 pm.

CONSISTORY MEETING

August 17

The Consistory will meet on Thursday, August 17, at 6:30 pm.

ALL CHURCH “YOUTH GROUP OUTING”

August 26

The Youth Group is inviting the entire church and friends to a picnic at Lake Jean. See page 3 for details.

OLD RIVER CHURCH

Sunday Evening Services
Services begin at 6:00 pm.

August 6	St. Mary's R. C.
August 13	New Hope UMC
August 20	Emmanuel UCC
August 27	Old River Cem. Assoc.

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INFO

August 21

The deadline to put information in the September Messenger is August 21. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

We survived the flooding and hope that you are all cleaned up from it also. We felt so proud that Emmanuel was able to help so many people with the assistance from the food pantry.

July was a banner month for us. We enjoyed the Fourth of July, especially the beautiful service and music on July 2. The coffee hour was a lot of fun also; we cherish the chances for fellowship with all of you. We appreciate how hard everyone works to organize and host those events. It is an important job to provide these chances for Christian interactions. We love traditions of all kinds so each holiday is a special festivity for us.

On July 5, I helped to officiate for the funeral of the father of one of our dearest friends, in Millersburg, PA. His daughter, Elaine Shuey, is a professor at the East Stroudsburg University. She joined the choir and Zion and Margie and I became very close friends with her. We were in her wedding four years ago...our last chances at being a bridesmaid and an usher. I felt honored to be asked to participate in the memorial service at Trinity UCC, in Millersburg. Since it was a Wednesday, we planned to stop on our way through for our service here. We packed a cooler for our dinner. We sat outside, here at Emmanuel, and enjoyed the panoramic view that is one of our most favorite sights. As we ate our meal, we remarked about how much we would have to pay for a view like that at a restaurant. It was a wonderful experience...enjoying God's world together.

The church picnic was another highlight. It is so much fun to get to know each of you even better. We have such a wonderful assortment of beautiful people in our church family here. We grew up with church picnics and really look forward to them. Anytime we can enjoy people is a great time for us.

We celebrated our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary with a trip to Ireland. It was a dream come true for us. We had hoped to go there for many, many years and to actually do it was so delightful. We, like so many of you, have come a long way together. The Lord has been ever present in our lives. He has walked with us through the good times...and the bad ones. We are so thankful for His presence. We were touched very deeply by the Irish Blessing that Sharon bestowed upon us, on behalf of all of you, the Sunday before we left on our trip. It meant the world to the two of us.

I have really enjoyed getting to visit the shut-ins. It is so rewarding to celebrate the sacrament of communion with them. It is a great highlight for me.

We are praying that the search process goes well. We know that someone will be very fortunate to serve here as your minister. The congregation is so warm and welcoming, encouragingly helpful and sincere. We are cherishing our occasion to be here with you and look forward to each week. Peace,

Pastor Ted

FROM ONE OF OUR OWN

The following piece was written last October. I thought of it after Pastor Good's message on July 23. It seems as if lately life has been full of emergencies and unexpected events. Life is always full and the feeling that "something needs to be done" often accompanies it. Remembering to slow down and take your time is always good advice even when life seems to be pushing you forward. To relax and know that God is with you is truly a blessing we need to remember.

Just take a moment to think. How often have you heard, or said it? TAKE YOUR TIME. Too many times or maybe not enough. Who have you said it to? And why haven't you listened?

Why is it so important to take action immediately? It seems as if in our culture to hesitate is to give up. Why didn't you do something? Maybe you didn't know what to do. Who in our culture can admit to that? It is difficult to take time. We all feel the pressure to begin, accomplish, continue, and finish. Yet, we know better than to run with our eyes closed. This is not a heroic response.

At this moment, we need to take time. Time for God, our families, and our hopes for the future can't be left until later. The thing we fear in later is "late". We need to hesitate in our push for the next thing or the finish line. The finish line in most cases is an imaginary one, that is soon replaced by another false mark of completion. Life just goes on until we depart to the next stage of it. We are promised unending life so what is the rush when we have been given the journey.

I used to hear stories about my father-in-law who on the family vacation was always concerned about making "good time" when they departed. Laughingly, it was said that this fixation was a result of his time spent driving truck. Once he arrived, he would soon be anxious to make "good time" on the trip home. Driving in circles, is this how we make "good time"?

Today's life coaches always talk about making short term and long term goals. I like to think of short term goals as where on a walk the park bench is located. You know the place where you can catch your breath before going on or turning back. Both choices are possible but need a place of stillness to be considered. Short term goal "benches" let you rest for awhile. Long term goals are just signs that say how far ahead the "park" is. I like that word "park". To park is to make a commitment to stay awhile. A long term goal should do that, let you stay awhile and enjoy being there.

I know what you are thinking. What about those times of emergency? Yes, it can happen. By its very definition an emergency requires you to be prepared to react or act. How do you do that? Are you ready because you took the time to be prepared? Is it possible to plan for the unexpected? Can an emergency be predicted or be thought possible? Can you be prepared for every surprise in life? An emergency can be considered an unplanned stop caused by upset or love. When you are moving very fast in life, forward or backward, do you know why? Do you know what the emergency is in your life, what created it, and how to respond? Can you answer that question? Emergencies jolt us into using what we know. So take time to learn something about the important things in your life. Be able to answer the question, "Why is that important to me?" The more you know about what you consider important the better. How can you protect or pursue what you don't understand.

Everyone feels as if they live in the most difficult of times. And they are right. It is difficult to live now and it was difficult before and will be in the future. For something to be difficult implies a challenge to be faced. A journey does not take place only on level land. So what are your challenges? Life will recreate them until you face them with humility and creativity. A "one response fits all" will not work. It will only wear you out and leave you confused and bruised. So take your time.

Traveling within this life can be quite an adventure. The landscape is reconfigured by each experience we have and the people we find traveling with us, whatever the speed and direction of our travels. This congestion of travelers can make us feel caught. Seeking out clear paths may make us lonely and cause us to question our decisions in life. When too many travelers seem to be going in a direction we need to ask ourselves why. If too few, we still need to ask why. In fact, we always need to ask why, even when we think we know the answer. Take your time. God is with you.

Dorothy Hoyt
October 2005
(Take Your Time)

Thank You

Orceil Bloss would like to thank everyone for their cards, calls and prayers during her recovery from her recent surgery. Your concern was greatly appreciated.

Around Our Community

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

A local Girl Scout, Hannah Biskup, is attempting to earn her Gold Award. The Gold Award requires the scout to perform 30 hours of leadership. Hannah has chosen to lead teen ages eleven to seventeen to join Bingo Buddies, a wonderful service to the elderly in a local nursing home. Bingo Buddies will provide fun and companionship to all involved, along with completing necessary service hours for those who might need credits in this area. Please contact Hannah at 868-8352 if you are interested in joining this group.

SINGSPIRATION

September 17, 2006

6:30 pm at Stairville UMC

Come for an evening of inspirational music at Stairville UMC on September 17. This event has always been very uplifting with choirs from our communities raising their voices in praise to God. There are also congregational hymns so everyone can join in making a joyful noise to the Lord.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

TWILIGHTERS

August 9

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, August 9, at 12:00 pm with a picnic at Roth's Grove. There will be hot dogs and bring a covered dish to share. No utensils or plates are needed.

YOUTH GROUP OUTING

The Youth Group is inviting everyone to join them for a picnic at Lake Jean (Rickett's Glen) on August 26. There is free swimming in the lake with a beach (similar to Hickory Run), boat rentals for \$9.00, and loads of hiking trails. Just pack a brown bag lunch and come along for a fun day. We will leave from Emmanuel at 9:00 am for the 45 minute ride to Lake Jean.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 10

I hope you had a good summer and are ready to get back to Sunday School. We have a great year planned beginning with Rally Day on September 10. This will also be our first day of Sunday School for the new school year. We will have more information in next month's Messenger so keep watching!

God Bless,

Sharon E.

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

Eric and Justin Rinehimer continue to help the Mountain Top All Stars Team. The team beat the Back Mountain American team by a score of 15 to 6. Hey, batter, batter!!! Keep hitting those balls!

MMI Honor Roll

President's List: Amanda Kemmerer

Rice Elementary Honor Roll for the 4th Marking Period:

Principal's Honors: Kelly Madigan, Alecia Myers, Jared Yakscoe

Honors: Taylor Farrell, Courtney Kania
Excellent work!

Rice 6th Grade Reading Students

Kelly Madigan was one of the students who created an original adventure prose narrative or adventure play on the theme of "Nature's Challenges". The students created original stories set in various locations from the Arctic to tropical paradise and then had to incorporate realistic plots and characters for their setting. They then shared these stories with students in the second, third and fourth grades to foster oral fluency skills and develop an interest for creative writing among the younger students.

UCC NEWS

This section is provided to inform you of our local Penn Northeast Conference and National Denomination activities and projects so that we can better understand our role as members of the United Church of Christ.

LAY MINISTRY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A program for anyone interested in obtaining Certification in Church Leadership or Licensed or Commissioned Ministry is scheduled to begin this fall. Copies of the brochure which outlines the dates of classes and the instructors are on the table in the Narthex. While these classes are designed to equip lay people for specific ministries, anyone can take individual classes for personal enrichment and growth. This program is sponsored by the Tri-Penn Conferences of the UCC which are the Penn Central Conference, Penn Northeast Conference and the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

If you are a college/graduate student who is preparing for a career in Ordained Ministry, Certified Teacher or Educator, or Doctor of Medicine you may qualify for a scholarship grant from the Gwilym T. Williams Scholarship Fund. See info sheet on the Narthex table.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 2006

August 6 – Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Organist: Don Eroh
Greeters: Caroline Cronce and Connie Myers

August 13 – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Organist: Don Eroh
Greeters: Carol Duffy and Eileen Bonczek

August 20 – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Organist: Don Eroh
Greeters: Gwen and Bob Hight

August 27 – Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Organist: Don Eroh
Greeters: Dorothy Hoyt and Becky Broyan

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers

Clifford & Gladys Readler

Marc & Connie Davis

John, Linda, & J.P. Jankowski

Anyone interested in helping clean our church, please contact Dave Myers.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 George Belanchik	18 Amber Lazo	25 Wesley Hoffman
4 Camille Daniels	18 Wayne VanFossen, Sr.	27 Jennifer Rinehimer
4 Joanne Lesh	19 Audrey Grosz	27 Debbie Price
4 Debra Prelewicz	20 Jillian Evans	27 Rick Evans
5 Robert Prelewicz	21 Ronald Rinehimer, Jr.	27 Greg Heller
5 Teresa Day	22 Wendy Williams	27 Samantha Taney
7 Ethel Fine	22 Bradley Kline	28 Ed Mylet
8 Ronald Rinehimer, Sr.	22 Eleanor Arnold	28 Kara Johnson
9 Matthew Price	23 Courtney Kania	29 Marc M. Davis
9 Mary Hartman	23 Patricia Rinehimer	29 Shirley Eckrote
12 Gladys Peters	24 Karla Spangler	31 Cheryl Heller
15 Sarah Fabiny	25 Kelly Sufrinko	31 Lisa Shafer
16 Robert Heller	25 Jeremy Hoffman	31 David Horensky
17 Sheila Kline		31 Nelson Horwath

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

August 1, 1992Marc and Connie Davis	August 25, 1973.....Roy and Betty Baker
August 3, 1968John and Joan Rinehimer	August 27, 1983.....Rob and Debbie Prelewicz
August 10, 1991Bill and Sherri Hoch	August 27, 1999.....Chris and Deb Dietrich
August 14, 1971Dave and Sharon Horensky	August 28, 1990.....Joe and Lois Huntzinger
August 14, 1976Clyde and Brenda Heller	August 31, 1963.....Stan and Darlene Stein
August 17, 1957Lydon and Orceil Bloss	