

# THE MESSENGER

First United Methodist Church  
Mansfield, Pennsylvania 16933  
Pastor, Richard L. Berg

June 2009

Dear Members and Friends of the First United Methodist Church:

Over the seven years that I have been here, I have been grateful for the leadership of many of you who have given of your talents and time to head a committee or board. Many of you have stepped up and heard the call of God. Thank you. Now it is time for me to turn the leadership of this church over to another. It comes with much thanks to you who have walked the road with me. It also comes with a heavy heart. I have come to love you as my family and certainly as my friends.

Many have asked why this has had to happen. One of the blessings of being a United Methodist is that we are a connectional System. As I have taught our confirmation students, this means that we are a family—we are connected together. We pray, uphold and trust one another. You should be able to go to any part of this world and if you are in need, a United Methodist church family should be able to care for you. Now, this relationship carries over into the church. In this family, every pastor sees each worldwide church member as their own member and parish. I am to be able to see any member as my family member. And vice versa, every member sees each pastor as their own pastor. That means that any pastor should be able to come into this pulpit and you should see them as your pastor. Thus, any pastor is your pastor and should be able to function and lead.

Just like many families, we may not always agree or get along. We may disagree on the way things should be done. We may disagree on our politics. We may even disagree on how to conduct a service. But in the midst of our disagreements, we are still family and connected together. I may not always agree with my brothers and sisters, but I am family. And I am united with them in the bond of Christ.

So, as I move on, I would ask and hope that you would treat your new pastor with the same love and patience that you have afforded me. As of July 1, Joy will be your new leader, pastor and friend. I will always see you as my church...and more importantly, as my friends because we are connected together. Mansfield will always have a special place in my heart. So, as time moves us forward, please accept my thanks for all you have done for and given to me. We will meet again; but next time it will be in our true home.....our heavenly home. Blessings for now and keep your faith strong....

So long for now.....

Pastor Rich



**ATTENTION TO ALL!**

You are invited to a **“Farewell Luncheon”** for Pastor Rich Berg at the Mansfield United Methodist Church on June 14 at 1 PM. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Beverage will be provided.

Following the luncheon from 3-5 pm, there will be an open house for the community to fellowship and share with Pastor Rich.

**A DAY OUT WITH PASTOR  
to the Nicholson Bridge**

This trip is in memory of Bill Connelly. It is a trip I promised to do because Bill always wanted Pastor Rich and others to see the largest concrete bridge in the world.

Bill used to camp under the bridge. The Nicholson Bridge or Tunkhannock Viaduct as it is called, is Located in Nicholson, PA near Tunkhannock.

The bridge, a railroad bridge, was built between 1912 and 1915 by Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. It is 2,375 feet long and 300 ft high. A five hundred men work force built it.

The trip is scheduled for **Friday, June 12, 2009**. We will leave the church parking lot at 10:30 AM. We plan to have lunch at Mark’s Valley View Restaurant located on Route 6, between Wyalusing and Tunkhannock. After lunch we will travel to the bridge.

Estimated return time is between 4 PM and 5 PM.

Please join us!!

**Direct address for:**

**Ferne Schanbacher  
8114 Avalon Way  
Schrewsbury, MA  
01545**



**STEWARDSHIP**

God has given us two hands —one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing. Billy Graham

Submitted by,  
Joyce Taylor

***We Have Stepped Up In Our  
Faithfulness!***

On April 26 we celebrated Consecration Sunday during our worship service. This provided an opportunity for the people in our congregation to make a financial commitment to the ministries of this church. Many people who were not able to be in worship on that day have mailed their Estimate of Giving card to the church office.

The following report from our financial secretary shows that the people in our church have increased their “Estimate of Giving” for this next year.

**Estimate of Giving Report**

	<u>Total number of cards received</u>	<u>Total “Estimated Givng”</u>
April 2008:	42 cards	\$51,787.00
April 2009:	44 cards	\$57,097.00

The focus during the time leading up to Consecration Sunday has been about faithfulness — God’s faithfulness to us and our faithfulness to God.

*Well done, my good and faithful servant!*  
Matthew 6: 19—21



**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Leo & Lucile Packard (A) 1953
- Jeff & Juanita Shaw Giarth (A) 1997
- 5 Lynn VanOrden
- 6 Bill Korisher
- 7 Josh Forrest
- 8 David & Jacquelyn Buckheit (A)
- 9 Margaret L. Mortimer
- 10 Terry Mudge
- Richard & Jane McGee (A)
- 11 Richard Jackson
- James Colegrove
- 12 Chester & Mary Bailey (A)
- 16 Jered Berge
- Tom D'Angelo
- 17 Jenny Farrer Klimko
- 18 Jim Loomis
- 20 Robert L. Smith
- David Case
- 21 Harold Shaw Sr
- 23 Catherine M Bendler
- Jered & Melissa Berge (A) 2001
- 24 Nittanee Lynn Register
- 25 Edgar & Linda Lawton (A)
- Bradley Mudge
- 27 Kate Fuller
- Steve & Linda Gehringer (A) 1970
- 28 Jerry Rumsey
- 29 Art & Tanya Kuhl (A) 2002
- 30 Denny Bell
- Shelley & Jim Loomis (A)

**Scripture Reading (Tentative)**

June 7	Acts 2:29-41 Apostles' Creed pg. 881
June 14	Acts 2:42-47 Ephesians 3:7-13 I John 1:1-10 Canticle of God's Glory pg. 83
June 21	Acts 2:42-47 Luke 3:15-20 Canticle of Thanksgiving pg. 74
June 28	Acts 2:42-47 II Corinthians 7:6-15 Canticle of Love pg. 646

**LIBRARY NEWS**

For the members of the S.O.S. Bible Study, who are studying "The Shack", we have books on Feminist Theology. Lying on the top of the book shelves is a stack of books on Feminist Theology. The are "A Feminist Ethic of Rick" by Sharon D. Welch; "Feminist Theology/ Christian Theology "In Search of Method" by Pamela Dickey Young; and "Bread Not Stone", The Challenge of Feminist Biblical Interpretation by Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza.

Submitted by Rosalie Connelly  
Librarian

**PROFILE OF NAN WILCOX**

Nan started coming to this church when she found a lack of growth in herself at her last church and needed a change. She chose FUMC solely on the fact that the services were fairly early on Sunday morning. Her first impressions of the church was that the people were very friendly and she remembers Pastor Rich telling her that he gives hugs rather than shaking hands.

Her special memories of the church are at the holidays when the Christmas Eve service brings forth that special time of Christ's birth to the forefront and creates further bonds that we share with Him and our earthly family and it's traditions. It's wonderful to look around the church and see so many families together to help celebrate Christ's birth so long ago.

Share and Concern time also brings fond memories because it helps give the church family a bond of oneness. I love that not only do we share concerns but lift up our joys and blessings.

Nan's vision and hope for the church is to be a church that would reach out to Mansfield University students.

Nan's family history is as follows: Nan grew up in the Mansfield area and attended the local schools. After high school graduation she spent her first year at Cazenovia College which at the time was a private girls school. Then she left and joined the work force for awhile. In 1978 she married a neighbor, Gordon Wilcox. (Wow, how often does someone marry and keep the same last name.) They have two children, Mara and Ryan, and they will be married for 31 years.

While they were young she decided to attend Mansfield University where she received two degrees. A Masters of Education and a Reading Specialist Degree. Nan then taught Preschool, Kindergarten, and First Grade at the New Covenant Academy for ten years. Currently, she is a Reading Specialist at the Warren Elementary School in Mansfield.

## June Helpers

June 2009	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Greeters	Leo & Lucile Packard	Linda Gehringer	Jerry & Deanna Rumsey	Rosalie Connelly
Acolytes				
Liturgists	Ellen Wise	JoAnne Davis	Joyce Taylor	Jane Mudge
Altar Flowers	Peggy Goff	Les & Betty Evans	Lloyd & Joyce Colegrove	Rosalie Connelly
Cleaning Donation	Linda Lawton	Jim Colegrove	Laurie Piquero	Farrer
Lawn Mowing Donation	Barb Rundell	Margaret Mortimer	Jim Colegrove	Jane Mudge
Nursery	Ellen Wise	Linda Gehringer		

### HUB NEEDS KIT ITEMS

The Wellsboro District Mission Central Hub is in dire need of kit materials! The Hub can use all items on the School Kit and Health Kit shopping list.

#### School Kit:

- Lined paper or spiral bound notebooks
- Pencils (no advertising)
- Crayons (24 box)
- Scissors (blunt)
- Wooden, plastic or metal rulers
- Erasers (not pencil-end toppers)
- Pencil sharpeners (must have well)

#### Health Kit:

- Hand Towels (no kitchen towels)
- Wash Cloths
- Metal Nail Files or Nail Clippers
- Individually-packaged Toothbrushes
- Bar Soap
- Band-aids

Please e-mail Wellsborodistrictmissioncentral-hub@yahoo.com for pickup or deliver materials to the Hub at the Westfield Youth Center. The Hub is open each Tuesday from 1-4 pm and the Second and fourth Saturdays of each month.

### Wellsboro District Mini-Camp at His Thousand Hills

**July 19-22, 2009;** "How God Used Kids". For children who have completed grades 4-12. The cost is \$145. There will be canoeing, rope courses, land skiing, crafts, games, worship, singing, tubing, karaoke, and lots more. Four large rings (like hula hoops), pumpkin cutters, water hose and some to set up a scavenger hunt are needed. For more information or a registration form, please contact Mrs. Sharon Haskins; [sharonh@zitomedia.net](mailto:sharonh@zitomedia.net) or 814-274-8360.

### F.R.O.G. SQUAD

8 week Summer Program for children ages 5-13

**Date: June 8, 2009 – July 31, 2009**

**Time: 9 am – 4 pm**

This year's themes: Passport around the Globe

There will be stories, crafts, games, snacks, swimming and lots of fun!

For more information call the UMC at 662-2411.

A \$35.00 donation is appreciated to help with expenses but not necessary.

### DO YOU HAVE AN EXTRA E-MAIL!

At the present time our church e-mail address is attached to pastors e-mail at home. With the pastoral change we will need to change that. We will need a new e-mail for the church.

If you have an extra e-mail you can share with the church, please let us know by contacting the church office. 570-662-2411

### Seeds of Hope Partners Needs

Seeds of Hope Partners is in need of the following:

- A double stroller
- canned fruit and vegetables
- peanut butter, jelly
- juice, pasta and pasta sauce
- Diapers in all sizes
- Pillows, twin size mattress pad
- Cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items

Take them to the Tokishi building and give to Diny, Tina or Linda.

## JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Wellsboro District Mission Central HUB is again selling **BLUEBERRIES!** The berries last year were wonderful and we have had many inquiries about their being available again this year. They will be acquired at the same place as last year and should be equally delicious. A church volunteer will be responsible for collecting the orders and money and mailing them to Kay Hoag, 21 Old Key Rd., Tioga, PA

- Price is \$25.00 per 10 pound box (whole box orders only – single people may choose to split with someone)
- Order deadline is **June 23, 2009** Deadline for forwarding the orders and money to Kay is **June 26.**
- **Money must accompany each order**
- Checks should be made payable to Wellsboro District Mission Central HUB
- Church will be notified of time and location of pick up.
- Berries will be delivered to a central location.
- Customers will be notified a few days before delivery of blueberries.

Wed., June 3	11 am, Bible Study
Thurs., June 4-6	Annual Conference at Messiah College
Sat., June 6	Graduation at Mansfield High School
Sun., June 7	9:30 am, Worship
Mon., June 8	9 am, Frog Squad Begins 1:30 pm, SOS Bible Study
Wed., June 10	7 pm, Council Meeting
Fri., June 12	10:30 am, Church trip to Nicholson Bridge
Sun., June 14	9:30 am, Worship – Father’s Day 1-3 pm, Pastor’s Farewell 3-5 pm, Community Fellowship time with Pastor
Mon., June 15	7 pm, UMW Meeting
Sun., June 21	9:30 am, Worship
Thurs., June 26	No Bible Study
Sat., June 27	7 am, Men’s Breakfast @ West’s Restaurant
Sun., June 28	9:30 am, Worship 3-4 pm, Retirement Celebration for Rev. James T. Dawes; FUMC, 64 W. Chocolate Ave., Hershey, PA.

**Retirement Celebration in Honor of Rev. James T. Dawes**  
**Sunday, June 28, 2009.** Reception 3-4 PM; Worship & Recognition from 4:15-5:15 PM; Dinner 5:30-6:30 PM at the **First United Methodist Church, 64 W. Chocolate Ave., Hershey, PA.**  
Please respond by Friday, June 14 by calling 717-533-9668.

### HISTORY MOMENT Chester Bailey

#### **VIRGINIA PASSES STATUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

Virginia establishes Religious Freedom in 1786. The clergy of the Church of England were sharing the privileges of the aristocracy in 1776 when Thomas Jefferson withdrew from the Continental Congress and returned to Virginia and became a member of the House of Delegates. Four Days after the Assembly convened he was appointed to the Committee on Religion. The petitions showered in asking for the separation of Church and State. Although there was support for change from the Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists from the frontier, the establishment held on. Jefferson held the office of Governor for two years and wrote the Act of Religious Freedom, but could not get it before the Assembly. After 10 years James Monroe got it passed.

An Act for establishing Religious Freedom I Whereas- - - -.

II. Be it enacted by the General Assembly, that no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, not shall he be enforced, restrained, molested or burdened in his body or goods, now shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious argument to maintain, their opinion in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or effect their civil capacities.

III. And though we well know that this Assembly, elected by the people for the ordinary purpose of legislation only, have no power to restrain the acts of succeeding assemblies, constituted with power equal to our own, and that therefore to declare this act to be irrevocable would be of no effect in law, yet we are free to declare, and do declare, that the rights hereby asserted are of the natural rights of mankind, and that if any act shall be hereafter passed to repeal the present, or to narrow its operation, such act will be an infringement on natural right.

In papers found after Jefferson died he wanted to be remembered for only three achievements. One was the authorship of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.

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Dining Room: (570) 662-7719

### Address Service Requested



*This Newsletter is sent with a blessing and a prayer to...*

#### **“Give Ye Them to Eat” Mission Trip to Mexico**

You are invited to join a work/Study team traveling to the “Give Ye Them to Eat” training center in Puebla, Mexico, October 9-18, 2009. Central PA has been sending teams to “GYTTE” for more than 15 years. You will learn, work, tour, and shop in the city of Puebla and at the training center in the village of Tlancualpican! Most importantly, you will be sharing the love of Christ with our brothers and sisters in Mexico. We love having folks with construction related skills, BUT NO SPECIAL SKILLS are required. The cost is \$1400, including all meals, lodging and transportation. You must be at least 18 and in reasonably good health. For more information and an application, contact Rev. Marian Hartman at [marianhartman@cpccpastors.org](mailto:marianhartman@cpccpastors.org) or by phone at 570-724-3138. Pastors can receive 3.3 CEUs.

#### **MISSION CENTRAL IS COLLECTING EYEGLASSES FOR THAILAND**

Please bring eyeglasses to Mission Central where they will be prepared for a 2010 mission team to take to villagers in Thailand. If there is a surplus of glasses, they will be sent to Sierra Leone, The Dominican Republic, or wherever there is a need. Rev. Jeff Fisher is planning this trip and working with our UM missionaries there, Mike and Sherri Morrisey from Kentucky. They are excited about folks coming to help, as well as bringing a team along to teach English as a second language. It would be great to have a core of young people to help teach English through games and fun activities. If you are interested in being part of a team to travel to Thailand, please contact Rev. Jeff Fisher at [jefffisher@cpccpastors.org](mailto:jefffisher@cpccpastors.org) and bring eyeglasses to Mission Central in the meantime.

