Quakertown United Methodist Church
1875 Freier Road
Quakertown, PA 18951
215.536.4992
Visit our website at www.qumc.com

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

May 2015

A Fond Farewell

It was just short of two years ago that we welcomed Hilary Ann Golden as assistant pastor.

In that brief period of time Hilary has made her mark on QUMC. We quickly recognized that God had given her many gifts for ministry; a passion for the Lord and for His people, sound and thought-provoking preaching and teaching, a heart for justice and for "the least of these," musical talent, and more.

Hilary made everyone feel respected and accepted. She gave great leadership to our youth and Christian Education ministries. She was full of good ideas and was a joy to work alongside.

Besides her multitude of gifts and talents, Hilary has a great sense of humor and is fun to be with.

QUMC's members and friends will miss Hilary and are sad to have to say "farewell." We thank her for everything she has done and truly wish her to "fare well" in her new adventure at Community United Methodist Church in Crofton, Maryland, as Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. She will take our prayers and best wishes with her. We will always remember her ministry with us with gratitude and appreciation.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."
Numbers 6:24-26

The Pastor's Pen

Thoughts by Pastor Russell J. Atkinson

The Summit of Everest

Open my mouth, and let me bear, gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare, love with Thy children thus to share.

"Open My Eyes, That I May See," 454 *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 1989

The Nepal earthquake continues to appear on our news feeds. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is involved in providing humanitarian aid. That aid will need to continue for some time to come as families find out the fates of their loved ones, food and water are provided, and people find places to live. Still, May in Nepal marks an anniversary of another time.

On May 29, 1953, Edmund Hillary and Tenzin Norgay made the first recorded ascent of Mount Everest. Following hours of struggling through the snow and gasping for oxygen in the thin air, it must have been an experience most extraordinary then to be at the highest point on the planet.

I have been contemplating the idea that these two men would have made the climb with very different mindsets – one a Westerner, and the other from south Asia. How did Hillary see his ascent? The highest mountain in the world was named "Mount Everest" in 1865 after the British Surveyor General of India, Sir George Everest, and for Hillary, as a New Zealander, it represented an immense physical challenge to be conquered. That this success coincided so nicely with the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II seemed perfect. Edmund Hillary was knighted in June 1953.

In contrast, Tenzin Norgay grew up in the shadow of the same mountain knowing it by its Tibetan name *Chomolungma*, meaning, "Holy Mother." This suggests a different relationship: not one of conquest, but of nurturing and love, respect and mutual dependence. No wonder the Sherpas are so dismayed to see the mother of all mountains now being treated as an extreme sport, its slopes covered with the litter of wealthy climbing parties.

The Hebrew scriptures put great stress on the significance of names. In Genesis, God gives Adam the powerful gift of naming the animals. Later, in Exodus, "I Am that I Am," is the King James Bible translation of the response God used when Moses asked for his name. It is probably the most famous verse in the Torah. We have a natural tendency to assume that the name we use is the only name – not to mention the right name – and as soon as we mentally label something good or bad, or friend or foe, we often blind ourselves to any other possibility. The more we can step out of our mental tunnels, and be open to other points of view, the more there is to learn, discover, and enjoy.

There are tensions in our lives, our families, our congregation, our communities, our nation and world. Yet, today is a new opportunity to hear something anew – perhaps try a new name. The old Prayer for Illumination might be timely for us as we read the Bible and as we experience the world:

Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may hear with joy
what you say to us today. Amen.

Let's pray that each of us today can find an opportunity to look at something or somebody with fresh eyes, in a way that will bring more respect and understanding into the world.

I pray there will be a blessing in seeing anew for all of us.

Opportunities To Be In Mission

Feast Food Pantry - Items for the month of May: pasta, rice, canned tuna, canned chicken. These should be placed in the grocery cart just inside the front doors.

Loaves and Fishes Community Dinner - This is a ministry of our area churches. QUMC's part this month is to provide the meal, to prepare the food beginning at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 6, and to serve the meal, scheduled for Thursday, May 7, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Trinity Lutheran Church on Hellertown Avenue in Quakertown. There is a shopping list in the narthex. To help in preparation, serving, clean-up, contact Carol Pertuit (610.346.6713).

Red Cross Blood Drive - Miller Hall, Friday, May 8, from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Thanks from Friendship Circle

A profit of $2,522.24 was realized from the Spring Rummage Sale held on Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18. Much appreciation to all who donated baked goods and rummage items, prepared and served the lunch, gave long hours to sorting and displaying items, cleaned up afterwards, and to all who bought items.

Our thanks to Becky Petko, who coordinates and oversees the whole thing. She has been doing this for years, following in the faithful footsteps of her mother, the late Barbara Hitman.

Following the sale, Friendship Circle donated $500 to Jerusalem House and $500 to the upcoming ASP Mission Trip. In addition, $500 was specified as discretionary, to be used for individual gifts. The remainder goes to needs in the church that are not provided for in QUMC's budget. Hats off to them!

Even More Thanks...

Much appreciation to those who donated to the fund used to provide gift cards to our college students during finals. With your support, Radical Hospitality was able to send a total of 21 gift cards to undergraduate students this spring.

Beautifully Done!

Plaudits to Chancel Choir director Bill Feigley and to the choir for a superb and moving performance of the cantata "Colors of Grace: Lessons for Lent," on Palm Sunday. It was flawless. Sometimes we tend to take for granted that the choir will inspire and enhance our worship Sunday after Sunday, forgetting that hours of preparation and rehearsal make all of it possible. Thank you!

A Warm Welcome

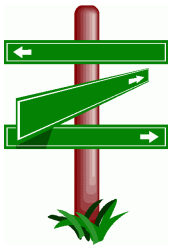
...to the following, who became "official" members of QUMC's church family on Sunday, April 19:

Denise Czop (Michael)	21 Barrel Run Road Quakertown, PA 18951 267.218.8559	Lisa Lehr (Madison, Dylan)	2088 Huber Drive Quakertown, PA 18951 267.374.1052
Lynn Geesaman	18 Live Oak Drive Quakertown, PA 18951 215.538.0200	Norma Lillie	324 Tohickon Avenue Quakertown, PA 18951 215.853.0175
Doug & Kelly Kennedy (Edward)	644 Birch Terrace Coopersburg, PA 18036 484.863.9104	Jeremy Wolf (Noah, Thomas)	251 Parkridge Drive Perkasie, PA 18944 215.262.7433

Time for Spring Clean-Up

Come on out and enjoy working with fellow members on QUMC's annual day to spruce up the church, inside and outside. The date is Saturday, May 16, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Work is always more fun when done with others. Come when you can, and stay as long as you wish.

Signs of the Times



Have you noticed the new signs in the narthex, which will be especially helpful to newcomers and visitors? Radical Hospitality thanks the following:

- Dick Hillegass for making the new oak signposts and blank signs for the Narthex and Elaine Aber for mounting the lettering on the signs.
- Mary Stahr for drawing a sketch of the church to use on the new mug that will be available in late May for sale to members and as gifts in the welcome packages for guests.

Much appreciation also to Gail Schadler for a wonderful, thought-provoking program on Radical Hospitality, sharing what other United Methodist churches are doing in our district and elsewhere.

You Won't Want To Miss It!

Downtown Quakertown's annual "Arts Alive" festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 16. This is a fun event featuring great food, music, crafts, art work, and more. Again this year QUMC will have a booth. Be sure to stop by (there will be cupcakes)!

Church Garden

The Missions Commission and Adult and Family Ministries are sponsoring the Church Garden again this year. Families and individuals may sign up for their own garden spot to tend. We ask that you contribute a portion of the harvest to local Food Banks. Garden prep work day on Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and/or Monday to Thursday, May 11 to 15, 9:00 to noon. After May 16 remaining spaces will be opened up to the community. For more details or to sign up, see our poster, Carol Pertuit, or Steve Finch.

Vacation Bible School

VBS is bringing Mt. Everest to Quakertown!

June 22 to 26, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Kids will explore Mt. Everest, learning to conquer challenges, using God's mighty power. Please look for registration forms in the narthex or register at www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/qumc. We will need many adult and teen volunteers.

We also need before May 22:

1. 2 x 2 pieces of wood 3 feet or longer. Also leftover pieces of wood to build a frame for a mountain. We will need many pieces to build multiple mountains 20 to 25 feet high.
2. 10 to 12 large boxes (appliance size: refrigerator, washing machine sizes)
3. 10 shoe boxes

Needed by June 7:

1. 10 to 15 old white sheets or tablecloths
2. 20 plastic white tablecloths
3. 20 plastic blue tablecloths
4. Leftover paint in the following colors:
   - blue (any shade)
   - dark brown
   - gray
   - white
5. Pool noodles

Needed by June 14 (will be returned after VBS):

1. Artificial Christmas trees 4 to 5 feet high
2. White or blue icicle lights
3. White or blue lights
4. Skis or ski equipment for backdrop
5. Rock climbing equipment and ropes

If you have any questions please contact Allison Ghorm at 484.225.7004.

Church Nursery

Both adult and teen helpers are needed to staff the church nursery. Presently the rotation is once every five weeks. With more volunteers the commitment would be less. If you are wiling to serve in this way, contact Erin Haslett (erinhaslett@gmail.com or 215.804.8618).

Faith Builders
Adult Sunday School Class

May classes will provide two separate and distinct offerings. The first will be Frustrating Fairy Tales for the Friends of Jesus. On May 3, 10, 17, and 31, Pastor Russell Atkinson will teach by parable, using fairy tales from the book Friedman's Fables. These tales will be funny, but also profound, provocative, even shocking as they present crucial truths about living in human community. Class members will learn that new ideas, new questions, and imagination, more than accepted wisdom, provide us with the keys to overcoming stubborn emotional barriers and to facilitating real changes both in ourselves and others. On May 24, the Reverend Ralph Ciampa, Chief Chaplain Emeritus at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, will lead a discussion on end of life issues, using two valuable resources, Five Wishes and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Living Will. This opportunity is open for all interested adults, not just regular Faith Builders class members.

Education Grants

The Education Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church will be offering a number of grants to assist worthy individuals with defraying the cost of higher education for the 2015-2016 school year. All applications received in the Conference Office (between and including) May 1 to May 16 will be considered for a grant. Unless there is some disqualification, grant recipients will be randomly selected.

For an application go to: http://www.epaumc.org/sites/default/files/PDF/Education%20Society%20Grant%20Application%202015-2016.pdf

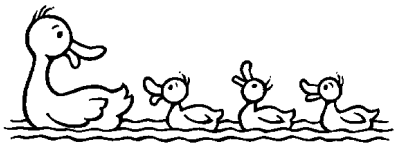
Baseball & More!

A night of baseball, fun and fellowship for the Northeast District has been planned for Thursday, June 18 at the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs game against the Buffalo Bisons. The game begins at 7:05 p.m., with gates opening at 5:45 p.m. Ticket price is $11, a portion of which goes for the District Mission Project - Camperships for Pocono Plateau. Also included is a $2 voucher for food at the stadium. See Steve Finch for details.

United Methodist Day at Dorney Park is on Saturday, June 27. Save the date for this fun event! Details to follow as they become available.

Join other United Methodists for a night at the ballpark with the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday, July 18. The Phillies will host the Miami Marlins at 7:05 p.m. To order tickets, go to www.phillies.com/methodist and use the promo code METHODIST. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit the Conference United Methodist Men Ministries.

Family Matters



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to: George Lightkep - May 5.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Noreen Budis
Room 202, Stoneridge Village
Poplar Run
Myerstown, PA 17067

George & Edith Lightkep
Arbor Square
695 Main Street, Apt. 357
Harleysville, PA 19438
215.677.6583

Dorothy Williams
The Oaks at Woodfield
5370 E. Baldwin Road, Room 521
Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439
810.579.3887

NOTES OF APPRECIATION:

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart to Pastor Russell, Diana Regan, Bill Feigley, Pastor Hilary, the Smakulski sisters, and many others, for the flowers and kind words, the hugs and expressions of appreciation - both spoken and written on the lovely card - and for making April 19 a very special, moving, and humbling day for me. I have always considered it my privilege and joy to serve the church and give all glory to God. Thanks again. I love you all!"

Mary Schwer

KEEPING IN TOUCH:

"Hope all are happy and well in QUMC. Everything is the same in the mountains. It was so good to see the Youth Group from the Quakertown church the other weekend.

Amy and her crew are really busy every weekend until the beginning of summer. She is a real trooper. Great in the kitchen. Takes after her other grandmother in the bakery, etc.

Enjoy the spring and summer and say "hi" to all for me. I miss you all."

Love from the mountains, Hattie Bowman

May 2015
Church Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	****SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE** 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship			`	``	2 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. United Methodist Women Conference
3 ** 12 noon UMW Mother/Daughter Tea, Faith Preschool Board Meeting 5:30 p.m. Young & Young at Heart Dinner 6:00 p.m. Life Group	4 6:30 p.m. Brownies & Daisies	5 7:00 p.m. Trustees	6 6:30 a.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Life Group, Chancel Choir, Radical Hospitality, Loaves & Fishes Prep at QUMC 7:30 p.m. Praise Band	7 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m. Life Group 5:30 p.m. Loaves & Fishes Community Dinner	8 2:00 p.m. American Red Cross Blood Drive	9 9:00 a.m. Garden Prep Work Day
10 ** Mother's Day 6:00 p.m. Life Group	11 6:30 p.m. Brownies & Daisies 7:00 p.m. Knifty Knitters	12 6:00 p.m. Youth at Food Pantry	13 6:30 a.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Life Group, Chancel Choir, Safe Sanctuary Training 7:30 p.m. Praise Band	14 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m Life Group 7:00 p.m. Safe Sanctuary Training, Finance	15 Miller Hall Reserved (3:00 to 9:00 p.m.)	16 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, All-Church Spring Clean-Up Quakertown Arts Alive
17 ** 2:00 p.m. Youth Belle Haven Service 6:00 p.m. Life Group	18 6:30 p.m. Brownies & Daisies 7:00 p.m. Missions, Willow Stream Homeowner's Association	19 **ELECTION DAY** 	20 6:30 a.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Life Group, Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Praise Band	21 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m Life Group 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team	22	23
24 ** 6:00 p.m. Life Group	25 **HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY** 	26	27 6:30 a.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Life Group, Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Praise Band	28 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m Life Group	29	30
31 ** 6:00 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Youth End-of-Year Bonfire						