



Quakertown United Methodist Church

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Visit our website at www.qumc.com

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

June 2015

What's That Scent?



A good sense of smell can be a blessing - or not so much!

The blessings include the fragrance of blossoms and flowers, newly mown grass, the air after a shower, laundry that's been breeze-dried (yes, some of us still do that), a freshly baked apple pie, Italian restaurants - and the list can go on.

The not-so-much smells include being in the path of burning rubber or an offended skunk, and being stuck in traffic behind a garbage truck.

The Bible has something to say about fragrances.

John 12:3 records the account of Mary (the sister of Martha and Lazarus), in an act of worship, taking "about a pint of nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet....And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."

2 Corinthians 14 and 15 reminds us that through us God "spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ...."

Writing to the believers in Philippi to thank them for their support Paul says, "The gifts you sent...were more than enough, like a sweet-smelling sacrifice..., filling the air with fragrance, pleasing God no end." (Philippians 4:18).

On the other hand, in Amos 5:21, God says he hates and rejects burnt offerings made as a show of worship by those who, at the same time, are living unrighteous lives.

The sickening smell of insincere worship and self-serving living.

The fragrance of true worship, witness, and service.

Which will it be?

A Note of Thanks

"I would like to thank Pastor Atkinson and my church family for all your acts of kindness and support after Jerry's sudden passing. Also my thanks to Ken Ghorm for singing a very special song.

I was very lucky to have Jerry for almost 50 years. Please keep us in your prayers."

Marie Frankenfield and family



The Pastor's Pen

Thoughts by Pastor Russell J. Atkinson

Stay In Touch

How lovely are the messengers that bring us the gospel of peace! To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings. (Romans 10:15,18)

As I write this Barbara is setting up a Yahoo equivalent of Skype account on her laptop. Barbara will then be able to talk to and look at her friend who has moved to the west coast, and friends across the globe for that matter.

It may be hard to remember or imagine now, but during the 1950s national telephone companies actually invested money in popularizing the use of telephones. The average for telephone use during the early 1950s was fewer than two calls a day! The house I lived in when I was a child had one telephone – it was in the front hall. Other houses had the telephone in the kitchen.

Seemingly, everywhere you look today, people have a phone fixation; talking, texting, watching movies, checking information, or listening to music. No church meeting is complete without people looking at their screens and losing track of the conversation. Some people are so addicted to their phones that they try “phone vacations,” locking their phones away except for emergency use. They’re trying to recapture some space for peace-and-quiet or for the face-to-face communication lost by the omnipresence of the cell phone. Interestingly, this appears to be more of a problem for middle-aged people; I see teens and young adults as having a better etiquette with their devices.

We human beings are instinctive communicators. We don’t communicate only through words, but through body language - picking up signals about how others are feeling and reacting towards us. This is why emails, efficient though they can be, and carefully though written, are poor substitutes for personal communication.

Communication has its contemporary challenges, but those challenges parallel timeless transcendent ones. Prayer is our attempt to communicate with God, and also God’s attempt to communicate with us. The translator of [The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language](#), Eugene Peterson says, "God yearns to converse with you. And he wants far more than just 'thanks for this, can I please have that' prayer." An old Roman Catholic liturgical prayer (I recall it being one of the weekday prefaces) says: O God, you have no need of our praise, yet our desire to thank you is itself your gift. Our prayer of thanksgiving adds nothing to your greatness, but makes us grow in your grace.

Prayer isn’t something we do for God. It’s something God does for us, to remind us daily how much we are loved and given the gift of the grace we need. Prayer is not a text, a tweet, a call, or an app.; it is communion with the beginning and the end – with the meaning of creation.

Great Maker of us all, you created us for community, and our hearts were made to reach out to you and to one another. Help us each day to offer you our thoughts, words, and hearts, and to listen for the voice of your love. Amen.

Enjoy your summer, and stay in touch.



Who's Graduating?



QUMC's graduates will be recognized in the summer (July/August) newsletter. But it can't be done unless we know who our graduates are. Please send an email to barb@qumc.com or call the church office at 215.536.4992. Many thanks!

Thanks!



Missions Commission expresses appreciation to all who provided food, did the cooking, and served the meal at the Loaves and Fishes Community Meal on May 6. Forty-eight of our neighbors enjoyed the dinner and the fellowship. QUMC provided the meal, which was held in the fellowship hall of Trinity Lutheran Church.



United Methodist Day at Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom

United Methodist Day at Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom, Allentown, Saturday, June 27. Park opens at 10 a.m. Use discount coupons, which can be gotten online, to enjoy this year's United Methodist Day. As a bonus there will be a "Youth and Family Gathering" at Dorney's Center Stage, open to all ages from 11 a.m. to noon, featuring music and inspirational speakers.

Coupon holders can enter the park for \$33, a \$21 discount off the regular price of \$54. There is no requirement to order tickets in advance. If it is a rainy day or something comes up, you just don't go. You don't lose any money. On June 27, just take your coupon to the ticket window when you arrive at the park to buy your ticket. In addition, a small tent will be set up at the Haunted Mansion House Hotel where you can meet other United Methodists. Remember, these coupons are good only on June 27. (Note: This is a Jarrettown UMC church fundraiser, but you don't have to be a United Methodist.) If you have any questions call or email Ross Brightwell at 215.643.1269 or rossbrightwell@verizon.net.

Discount tickets are available at <http://www.epaumc.org/sites/default/files/PDF/UMM%20Dorney%202015%20Pa%20Coupon/pdf>



Music Sunday

Plan to be part of a great celebration on Music Sunday, June 14. Note that there will be one combined service at 10:00. Sunday School will be at 9:00.

In addition to wonderful music from all our music groups, Dr. William Feigley will be honored for his outstanding service to our church as our organist and choir director for the past 20 years.

Also on that Sunday - at 9:00 a.m. - will be a celebration of the past Sunday School year. This will include a presentation in the sanctuary by the children's classes, featuring singing - and snacks! June 14 will be the last day for all classes - with the exception of the Men's and Women's - who, like the Energizer bunny, just keep going! All classes will resume in September.

Hospitality Table



Sunday, June 7, will be the last day until September for the Hospitality Table. Please consider taking a turn at hosting the table after it opens again. To find out what's involved, contact Steve Finch or Adele Winkler.



Out of Sight...

But we hope not out of mind. Many of us will be here and there during the vacation days of summer. But while QUMC will be out of our sight while we're away, our church does not take a vacation! Please remember to continue your giving, either by making your contributions before you go or by catching up when you return.

Remember that you can give online, a simple way to support the ministries of the church while you are away. For information on this option, contact Laura Lillie.

It Was Fun!



Thanks from the "young at heart" to the youth who served them a delicious dinner on May 3. It was a great opportunity for the generations to get to know one another. The games, some of which required teamwork, were fun. Thanks again!



**VBS is bringing Mt. Everest to Quakertown!
Monday, June 22 through Friday, June 26
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

To accomplish that, donations of the following items are needed:

Needed by June 7:

- ✓ 10-15 old white sheets or tablecloths
- ✓ 20 plastic white tablecloths
- ✓ 20 plastic blue tablecloths
- ✓ 6 pool noodles
- ✓ 3 paint brushes
- ✓ Packing peanuts (grocery bag full)
- ✓ 3 bags of polyfil
- ✓ Leftover paint in these colors:
 - blue (any shade)
 - dark brown
 - gray
 - white

Needed by June 14:

- ✓ 4 to 5 artificial Christmas trees
- ✓ White or blue icicle lights
- ✓ White or blue lights
- ✓ Rock climbing equipment and ropes

Snack donations. These should be brought in by June 14:

- ✓ 8 oz. plastic cups
- ✓ Napkins
- ✓ Powdered sugar
- ✓ Kraft marshmallows
- ✓ Rold Gold pretzels
- ✓ Snack size plastic bags
- ✓ White chocolate chips
- ✓ Raisins
- ✓ General Mills Vanilla Chex

Vacation Bible School also needs adult and youth helpers to act as Crew Leaders, responsible for leading a group of children through the various stations each night. At least one adult and one youth needed per crew. Pick up a form on the table outside the church office or email megan@mcmichaelfamily.com to volunteer to help.

See a complete and updated list in the narthex where you can sign up for any donations you would like to make. Thank you so much! VBS wouldn't happen without your help!



Feast Food Pantry

During the month of June please bring canned vegetables and/or canned fruits for the FEAST Food Pantry. Put items in the grocery cart inside the front doors.



There's Still Time 2015-2016 Preschool Registration

There's still time to register your child for the two quality, affordable preschool programs offered at Quakertown United Methodist Church for the 2015-16 school year. Openings remain in the Parent's Time Out program for 2's and Faith Preschool 2 day classes for 3-year-olds.

PARENT'S TIME OUT provides one-day-a-week programming for 2's (and young 3's). It is a semi-structured play experience, designed to give children a positive first start to being on their own, as well as to provide parents and caregivers some needed "time out." Each class includes free play, circle time, Bible story, music, crafts, snack, and gym. Additional enrichment activities include Lunch Bunch and mini-camp electives. Children may register throughout the year as they turn 2 and do not need to be potty trained.

FAITH PRESCHOOL offers AM and PM classes for 3's and 4's that provide a nurturing first-school experience, which emphasizes learning activities that are developmentally appropriate, while preparing students for a successful transition to kindergarten. Daily activities include free play, circle time, music, stories, pre-literacy skill development, math, art, snack, and gym. Openings for next school year are available in the 2-day classes for 3-year-olds, which meet on Tuesday and Thursday in the a.m. and p.m. Special enhancements to the 3-year-old program include music enrichment, Lunch Bunch, and mini-camp experiences.

A Recruitment Incentive equal to one month's tuition or its cash equivalent is being offered in select circumstances to those referring a new student to Parent's Time Out or Faith Preschool for September. For additional information or to arrange a tour for either program, please contact Registrar Melodie Schmouder at the FPS/PTO office - 215.536.8172 - or by email at faithpreschoolofficemanager@gmail.com or parentstimeoutqumc@gmail.com. Registration forms are available in the narthex and at www.qumc.com.



NEWS FROM:



PRECHOOL

Faith Preschool has concluded another successful year of providing high quality, affordable early childhood education to 67 three- and four-year-olds. End-of-year graduation and other celebrations saw Miller Hall packed with more than 200 parents, grandparents, and friends of the students.

The preschool's experienced staff will return in September for the school's fourteenth year: Beth Mininger, head teacher; Shana Reinford, teacher; Karen Godown, assistant teacher; Barb Hafler, office manager; and Melodie Schmouder, registrar and assistant teacher. The preschool's continuing success is attributable to the work of these dedicated individuals.

The preschool recognized Mrs. Godown's ten years of outstanding service.

Faith Preschool will have new leaders in September, as Janice and Jim Newcomer are moving from the area. The new chairpersons will be Melissa Tomlinson, Cristin Pizzi, and Susan Lennon. The board recognized the Newcomers' thirteen years of leadership.

Also leaving the board are Temple Sieger, parent representative; Jeff Stover, having also served ably for many years; and Jessica Albright. Board members in September will be Melissa Tomlinson, Cristin Pizzi, Susan Lennon, Chris Aber, Dr. Jenn Bubser, Jim Newcomer (transition), and parent representative Jen Reich. All Faith Preschool board members are required to be QUMC members with the exception of the parent rep.

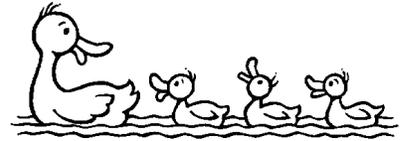
The preschool gave a \$2,500 gift to the church at year's end, including \$500 earmarked for the Trustees' use to care for God's house. The board also approved the purchase of several pieces of equipment for the church's playground.

In addition to the regular curriculum, Faith Preschool also offers Lunch Bunch, Summer Mini-Camp, Stretch 'n Grow wellness program, music, and special activities, such as Lehigh Valley Zoo.

The preschool and Parent's Time Out, the church's preschool program for two-year-olds, have begun discussions to incorporate PTO within the Faith Preschool structure. Cynthia Jamison will continue as the PTO director/teacher in September. Melodie Schmouder, co-founder and teacher, is stepping down after 14 years of dedicated service.



Family Matters



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to: Doris Willauer - June 12 and Nancy Schroy - June 18.

APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE! to Amanda Hafler, Darby Keller, Nicole Umstead, and Liz Aber who were in the cast of QCHS's outstanding musical, "Anything Goes."

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. James Newcomer, who will receive an honorary diploma by the Quakertown High School Alumni Association at their awards ceremony on June 6. Jim will be recognized for his contributions to the community. He retired as assistant superintendent of schools, having previously taught the visually impaired and served as director of special education.

IN MEMORIAM: Jeryl (Jerry) Frankenfield - May 12.



Extravagant Generosity Update

First, just a moment about the word "extravagant." Some think of it as meaning "wasteful," but in its spiritual context think of it as abundant or generous. Many of you may view us as that pesky Stewardship Commission that bugs you every year to fill out a pledge card. Well, yes, we do do that; but we are charged to do much more. We are developing a 3-year plan to invite and encourage all of us to begin living more generous lives, reflecting our growing faith and trust in our generous God. We want to inspire all of us to love more, give more, serve more and pray more. We accept the challenge for ourselves and for you to look beyond our own needs and wants and to be willing to make sacrifices that will produce spiritual fruit and bring about life change. We want you to view, with us, our giving not as paying out but as buying in to what God is seeking to accomplish through this church.

How will we accomplish this? Through much prayer, study and growing together. Our 3-year plan includes the following:

- The clergy and lay leaders of the church modeling Christian stewardship through tithing (which means 10%) or taking steps toward this goal.
- Sermons several times a year to promote a better understanding of stewardship.
- Collection and study of our congregation's attitudes about, and patterns of, giving, reporting the results of such a study.
- Offering at least two adult education courses a year on stewardship, seeking to discern God's will regarding the giving of our time, talents and treasure.
- Developing a prayer ministry to help us in the development of attitudes of generosity.

As always we welcome other ideas from you.



June 2015

Church Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00 p.m. Miller Hall & Sanctuary Reserved	2 7:00 p.m. Trustees Faith Preschool Camp →	3 6:30 a.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Life Group, Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Praise Band	4 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m. Life Group	5	6 Pavilion & Miller Hall Reserved 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
7 * 12 noon VBS Meeting 6:00 p.m. Life Group	8	9 6:00 p.m. Youth at Food Pantry Faith Preschool Camp →	10 6:30 a.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Life Group, Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Praise Band	11 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m. Life Group	12	13 9:00 a.m. Conference Mission U
14 9:00 a.m. End-of-Year Sunday School Celebration 10:00 a.m. Music Sunday/Festival Worship, (followed by reception in Miller Hall)	15	16	17	18 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team	19	20 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast at John's Plain & Fancy Miller Hall Reserved (VBS Prep)
21** 2:00 p.m. Youth Group Pool Party Miller Hall Reserved (VBS Prep)	22 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School	23 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School	24 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School	25 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School	26 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School	27 United Methodist Day at Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom
← Entire church in use all week for Vacation Bible School →						
28 **	29	30	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULES</p> <p>* 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School (All classes) 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship</p> <p>** 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School (Men's & Women's classes only) 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship</p>			