



Beyond The Red Doors

Conshohocken United Methodist Church

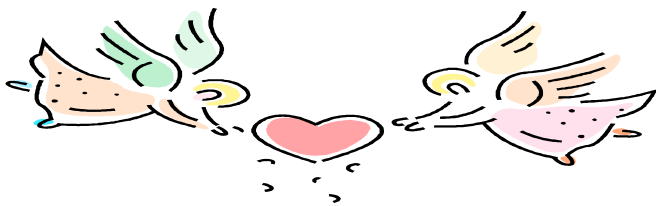
February 2009 Newsletter

“Conshohocken UMC exists to reach people of all ages, teach them Christ’s values and guide them as deeply committed Christians to show the world that God lives”



EASTER LILLIES

Easter lilies are now being ordered. Please see Anita Barton in church after the service on Sunday. She will have the order forms you can fill out with all your information or contact her at 610-397-1581. Please leave a phone number for her to call you back, as the machine doesn’t always allow for complete or clear messages. Pricing is as follows: 1/\$6.60; 2/\$13.20; 3/\$19.80



A NOTE ABOUT HOSPITAL VISITS

Please call our office (610) 828-1250 or the Pastor’s cell phone (267) 438-4234 if you or a loved one is in the hospital in order to get a visit. The Pastor fully understands your privacy and does not want to simply “show up” uninvited. If it’s someone special to you that you’d like the Pastor to visit, please make arrangements for you and the Pastor to go together

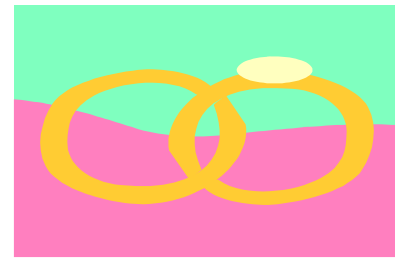


NEED A HALL TO RENT?

*Church Members, Special Guests,
Families, Friends:*

- **BIRTHDAY PARTIES**
- **BRIDAL SHOWERS**
- **BABY SHOWERS**
- **WEDDING PARTIES**
- **MEETINGS**

For more details, contact Joni McCormick, our Facility Coordinator at 610-828-1250 or jonimcc@verizon.net

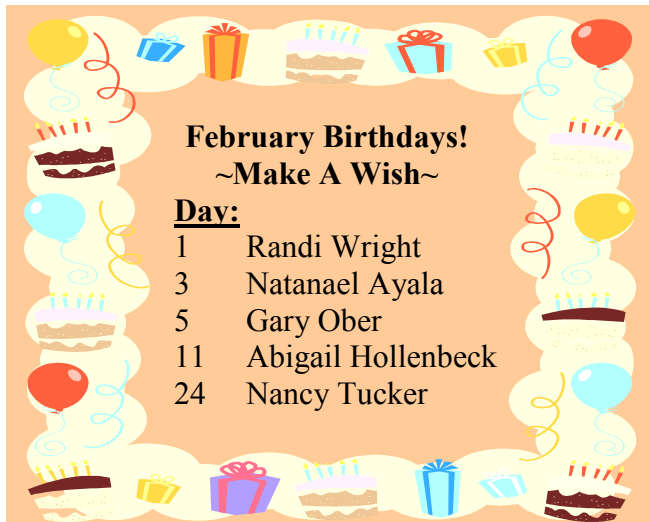


February Wedding Anniversaries

2/12 Mike and Marcia Marine

If you are having an anniversary in February are not listed here, that means we do not have a record of your wedding anniversary. Please call the church office with that information.



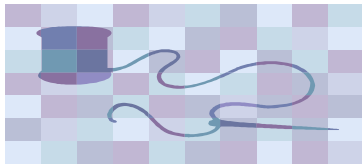


- E-mail it to Anna Hoffman at amhoffman507@comcast.net

The following shows examples of what you can share your “Thanks” for:

- ❖ Cards sent to you by our members
- ❖ Phone calls received while in hospital
- ❖ Pastor’s visit
- ❖ Keeping you and/or your family in prayers
- ❖ Care packages
- ❖ Graduation/Mother’s/Father’s Day gifts received

If you are having a birthday in February and are not listed here, that means we do not have a record of your birth date. Please call the church office with that information. We want to wish you a happy birthday!



NEEDLEWORK CIRCLE

The quilts made by the Needlework Circle are now given to Mercy Suburban hospital babies at risk. Formerly, they were shipped to a Phila. address which became too costly.



Thank You

We want to inform you that in this section, you can write a “Thank You” note to be included in our monthly newsletters. You can do so in the following manner.

- Call our office at **610-828-1250**
- Mail it in to **Conshohocken UMC, 20 W. 6th Ave, Conshohocken, PA 19428, Attn: BTRD** (Short for “Beyond the Red Doors”)

Please make sure you send in your article before the 15th of month to be included in the following month’s newsletter. This cut-off date will allow for the newsletter to be printed before the last Sunday of the month. Thank you!



Speaking English in Conshohocken

Have you heard about one of the newest ministries at the CUMC? In the fall of 2008 the newly formed ESL Ministry began offering English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to Conshohocken community members. The goal of the ministry is to help immigrants to better communicate and incorporate themselves and their families into our community by teaching English language along with American culture.

Last fall the ministry offered two different levels of classes to approximately 15 people. Two-hour evening classes were held twice a week at each level from September through December. These classes were taught by community volunteers Stephanie Clark and Lisa Steinhauer.

In winter/spring of 2009 the ESL Ministry plans will continue to offer English classes, and we invite you to get involved! You can volunteer with us in many different ways. As a conversation partner you can attend a class on occasion to help a student to practice in a short, one-on-one setting. As nursery helper, you can volunteer to play with and care for the students’ children, freeing their parents to concentrate on the lesson. As tutor or teaching

assistant, you could be paired up with a student to work on specific language skills during a regular class or at a different time. Remember, you don't need to speak any foreign languages in order to help out! We only speak English in class ☺

If you are interested in working with the ESL Ministry in 2009 and helping out your new neighbors, please contact Stephanie Clark at 610-832-9298 or stephamina@yahoo.com.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Director of Christian Education (Staff Position)

Looking for a challenge and an opportunity? Are you excited about leading adults, children and youth into and deepening their Christian faith? Conshohocken United Methodist Church is looking for a Director of Christian Education. This part-time position is available February 1, 2009. If you are both innovative and creative in your approach to the Christian education, this could be the position for you. Submit your resume by email to GaryAtkinson@verizon.net.

Christian Education Meeting – February 4th

Christian Education meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4th at 6pm. This meeting will be combined with all of the CUMC teams and the focus will be on “Worship Brainstorming/Planning”. Dinner will be served, please **RSVP**.

CE meetings normally take place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. We welcome feedback from parents and children. If you would like to help with the Christian Education Ministries, we welcome new and fresh ideas. Contact Lynda Lawrence at maylboxx@aol.com or 610-828-9040.

Youth (4th-9th) Fellowship Event – February 6th Phantoms Game

On Friday, February 6th the youth ages 4th through 9th grade can enjoy a action packed night at the Philadelphia Phantoms Hockey game. Bus will leave CUMC at 6pm. Please limit your child's spending money to \$10.00. No cell phones or other

electronics! RSVP to Miss Lucy at Lvetrone413@gmail.com or Mr. Dave at davidmontemayor453@yahoo.com. Permission slip is required.

Kid's Worship Time

Children in Kindergarten and older can opt to leave our main worship service after the children's moment and participate in a “kid-friendly” bible lesson with the same message as Pastor Ricky's sermon. Kid's Worship will meet in *The Garden*. Children will return to the Worship Service to join the congregation in singing the Closing Hymn. The parents/guardians of the children that attend this worship time must volunteer at least one time during the schedule rotation. Kid's Worship Time will not be held on the Sundays when the kids go on their Outreach Trips or on Children's Sunday. For children that would like to remain in the worship service there are colorful bags hanging in the back of the church filled with things to keep your child(ren) occupied. We do ask that at the end of the service, you return the bag to the rack and discard all trash.

Children's Sunday

The children, youth and teens will lead worship service on the last Sunday of each month. Practice for this month's Worship Service will be on Thursday, February 19th at 6pm. If your child is interested in participating, please contact Pastor Ricky or Bukola Ogunkua.

Youth Participation during Sunday Worship Services

CHILDREN AND YOUTH that are interested in singing during the worship service on Sunday are invited to practice with Pastor Ricky and the Praise Team every Thursday evening at 6pm. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Ricky at 267-438-4234 or email him at pastorricky@verizon.net.

Prayer Bears Available

Prayer Bears will be given out to by the children to anyone who is sick, homebound, hospitalized or just need encouragement. The bears will remind people that they are receiving prayer and support from the children and youth at CUMC. This project gives the children a chance to reach out to people in need. If you know of someone that would benefit

from a Prayer Bear, please inform any child of the God Squad.

It is not always the big things people do that touch lives and inspire hearts. Often the small things, given when someone needs them most.... a phone call to check on a friend, a hug, and yes, a teddy bear that remind people who are hurting that we, the church, are praying for them in their pain. On each bear, we can put the church address and an invitation to share how the bear helps.

Ministry for Preteens and Teens

The mid-week ministry for teens and preteens will meet on February 4th and 18th, 2009 from 7 to 8pm in The Garden. The purpose of this ministry is to provide outreach and missions projects for the youth. Join Lucy and Dave as they plan local projects. For more information, contact Lucy at Lvetrone413@gmail.com Mr. Dave at davidmontemayor453@yahoo.com.

Wawa Hoagie Coupons \$3.50each

The Sunday school children are still selling Wawa coupons to support the Courage to Care Campaign. The coupons sell for \$3.50ea (that's a savings of .40 per hoagie) and the coupons do not expire. Coupons will be available downstairs, outside of the secretary's office. Thank you for your support.

Children's Outreach:

Save the aluminum pop tabs from your cans. The money generated from recycling the tabs helps to defray the cost for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Please give your tabs to any Sunday school child and they will place them in our collection bin. Thank you for supporting our children's ideas and outreach programs.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Local Missions Team – Meeting Tuesday, February 17th at 7pm

First meeting for local missions will be on February 17th at 7pm to discuss and schedule projects. Several members of CUMC are interested in starting a Missions Team that does local projects. If you are interested in participating or you know of someone that would benefit from this service or have a project idea please contact Christine Bertino (christine.bertino@gmail.com) or Lynda Lawrence (maylboxx@aol.com)

New Ministries Forming for 2009

Do you have an idea for a new ministry? Looking for a group to get involved with at CUMC? Share your ideas and "ministry wish list" with the Christian Education team, there may be others interested in the same thing! Send your ideas via email maylboxx@aol.com or call 610-828-9040 or share with any member of the Christian Education Team listed on the back of your bulletin.

Valentine's Day Message

It's never too early to help children express patience, love and friendship in ways that transcend materialism. Because young children are concrete thinkers, it's hard for them to understand a concept that can't be represented by objects. But by watching you give gifts of kindness, time, patience, compassion, respect, and thoughtfulness to the people you love --- not just on holidays but throughout the year -- they will learn that "I love you" means so much more than three words inscribed on a candy heart.



Finance Team Corner

The Finance Team would like to acknowledge and thank all those, members and special guests, who have committed to helping the church meet our goals and financial challenges. In 2007, we completed our three year capital campaign and saw the restoration completed on sections of our building. We have also experienced transition in our Spiritual Leader and leadership within the church, and this transition has brought new ideas, changes, and concepts to our ministries and outreach programs. We have started new programs, revised others, and have seen an increase in our Christian Education program. As we begin 2009, we will be facing more challenges. The Jubilee congregation is leaving our church this summer; the loss of this rental income (\$37,800 a year) coupled with the uncertainty in the stock market and the economy will have a significant impact on the estimated cash collected for 2009.

We have been diligent in reducing our budgeted expenses for 2009. Our programs have reduced their budgets 20% from 2008 to 2009, but our fixed expenses have increased 23%. The largest drivers in our fixed expenses are the rising costs of oil, electric, and gas. With your continued prayers, as well as your time, talents, and treasures, we feel that we can continue to do God's will in Conshohocken and in the surrounding communities. Please prayerfully consider what God is calling you to do in our journey.

Fundraising Update:

Our focus this spring is on the fund raising events for 2009. We're looking for volunteers to help with each fund raiser and we are always open to new ideas that can raise more money for our church. This year fundraising will be even more critical because we face an ever growing budget deficit.

We've reviewed a long list of fund raising ideas and identified some we want to implement in 2009. Of course, we will continue the popular July 4th Barbecued Ribs and the successful yard sales, car washes, and Christmas wreath sales. In last month's Newsletter, readers learned about the CUMC Gift Card Fundraiser and the eScrip Program, otherwise known as the Genuardi's Program. We're also considering vendor discount cards, which work a little differently than the gift cards, and bulbs for planting in the garden. Whenever we sell gift cards, discount cards, wreaths or bulbs please keep in mind we want to be selling to friends, relatives, and neighbors not just church members.

Money Tree for Lent: During Lent we will place a tree in the back of the sanctuary and we are asking everyone to consider giving up something of monetary value during Lent and donating the dollar equivalent to CUMC. For every donation we will place a purple ribbon on the Money Tree. More details will be announced during Sunday Worship and in the Sunday Bulletins.

St. Patrick's Day Parade: The parade this year will be on Saturday, March 14, and we will have a concession stand like last year for sale of hot dogs, soda, etc. If you want to help out, please tell Jenn Kriebel or Carleton Cox.

Finance Team is also searching for sources of grant money. Last year CUMC received \$5000 in grant money. This is money we don't have to pay back! We're hoping to increase that amount this year. Besides supporting youth activities, we may be able to get grant money to "go green" and help save on our building operating expenses.

2008 Finance Wrap-up:

The church received \$5,000 in grants and \$9,700 in memorial money in 2008. Jubilee donated \$3,000 towards the oil expenses for the 2008-2009 winter. The church received donations totaling \$1,085 as part of the alternative gift program in December. This program provided individuals with the ability to make a donation to the church in honor of or in memory of a loved one for the holidays.

Cash collected in 2008 totaled \$231,205 and expenses paid for the year totaled \$263,180 for a loss of \$31,979. At year-end, the loan balance to the conference is \$241,961, and the church has borrowed \$41,492 against the Aqua America stock that we own. During the year the church paid 100% of the apportionment commitment to the conference and made all 12 monthly loan repayments.

Year end giving statements for 2008 will be available by the end of January.

Annual Stewardship Campaign:

Year end statements for 2008 giving will be available soon. As of January 15, we received 51 pledges totaling \$110,978 for 2009. Some of those pledging are not members of the church! We have reserved 40 giving envelope boxes for individuals or couples who have given in the past but have not yet pledged for 2009. If you would like to submit a pledge for 2009 there is still time! Pledge cards are available at the church office and can be picked up or mailed to you. Please call Joni or Pastor Ricky for a card (610) 828-1250 and return it to the church via mail or place it in the offering plate on Sunday. After your pledge is received, a confirmation letter will be mailed to you. If you are interested in having your 2009 pledge automatically debited from your bank account, please contact Bill Pope, the Finance Secretary.

The boxes of 2009 giving envelopes that haven't been picked up in January will be mailed.



Administrative Board Meetings in 2009:

1/14 4/8 7/8 10/14

Note: The above dates are for regularly scheduled

Administrative Board meetings. There may be a possibility to have additional meetings for special occasions such as preparing for Charge Conference.

Please take the time to thank the above individuals who have answered the “call to serve” in the areas of ministry at Conshohocken UMC for the upcoming year (s). Also, please don’t forget to thank those who served in these areas of ministry these past years. Their names are located in the back of the worship service bulletins throughout the month of December.. May God continue to provide us with His love and guidance as we wholeheartedly strive to serve Him



Concert-Style Worship Services

Conshohocken United Methodist Church is beginning an exciting, new Concert-Style Worship Service. All concerts will begin at **6pm** on the **third Saturday** of each month, and there is a **free meal** following each service! There’s no entry fee but a free-will “Love” offering will be collected during the service.

Join us each month to experience a different musical group. Currently scheduled groups are:

§ 6pm – February 21st
The Messiah Dance Group

§ 6pm – March 21st
Safe Harbor Children’s Group

§ 6pm – April 18th
Steel Drum Band from Easton, PA

§ 6pm – May 16th
Chorister’s Choir

Everyone is invited to attend these special worship services, from all walks of life and from any religious denomination. Please join us for fellowship, music, food and fun, at 6pm on the third Saturday of each month!

***CUMC IS THE
PLACE TO BE!!!***

2009 CUMC Personnel Information

Staff

Pastor – Jose “Ricky” Ayala (w) 610-828-1250 pastorricky@verizon.net

In Case of Emergency or Hospital Visit, call Pastor Ricky’s cell at 267-438-4234

Admin Assistant/Facility Coordinator –

Joan McCormick 610-828-1250 jonimcc@verizon.net

Sexton – Bob Maziarz 610-825-0563 maze1958@verizon.net

Minister of Music – Miku Shiota 610-527-3860 mikenya@yahoo.com

Teams

Lay Leader - Rick Barton 610-397-1581 rickdbarton@msn.com

People Chair- Dr. Gary Atkinson 610-828-8946 gary.atkinson@verizon.net

Members: Sally Hilton, Edward Bernier, Lee Guagliata, Lawrence Ogunkua, Rick Barton

Ministry Chair - Gregory Kriebel 610-828-2039 gckriebel@comcast.net

Members: Nancy Maguire

Christian Education Director - Lynda Lawrence 610-828-9040 maylboxx@aol.com

Members: Lila Backenstose, Joanne Lapinski, Michele Conner

Finance Chair- Carleton Cox, 610-327-0552 coxmaps@worldnet.att.net

Treasurer: Jennifer Kriebel 610-828-2039 jennmyers13@hotmail.com

Finance Secretary: Brian Backenstose 484-351-8692 stose@hotmail.com

Members: Richard Barton, Roseann Toner

Worship Chair- Dr. Bukola Ogunkua 610-272-0537 bukogunkua@aol.com

Members: Stephanie Williams, Mark Atkinson, Anita L. Barton, Irene Wise, Miku Shiota

Administrative Council Chair- Jake Kriebel 610-828-6479 jakekriebel@comcast.net

Administrative Council Secretary: Randi Wright

Property Team Chair- James Lapinski 215-768-6472; 610-834-0715 jr1001@verizon.net

Members: Jim Smith, Ann Waters, Robert Maziarz, Dennis Hannan

Programs

Media Relations Coordinator: Lyn Barr 610-213-5161 kneetitup@msn.com

Nursery Coordinator (during service): Judy Rhoads 610-275-3125 jrhoads119@comcast.net

Health & Welfare Ministries Coordinator: Virginia Teaford 610.828.9792 vgin40@msn.com

Membership Secretary: Ruth Thomas 610-941-4392 manda3724@aol.com

Church Historian: Dr. Gary Atkinson 610-828-8946 gary.atkinson@verizon.net

Beyond the Red Doors Newsletter: Anna Hoffman amhoffman507@comcast.net

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