



Beyond The Red Doors

Conshohocken United Methodist Church
March 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”



much or little time you have to offer, there is something you can do. During this Lenten season, let’s challenge ourselves to do something for our church family. It doesn’t have to be a major project or require a long commitment. Offer to fill in for an usher or greeter, visit someone who is homebound, help out with a fundraiser, or help with cleaning or repairs at church. The possibilities are endless. As the hymn reminds us, “I am the Church, You are the Church, We are the Church together.”

The Ministry Team has set the dates for the next Book Study and invites you to be a part of it.

The book to be discussed is titled “He Chose the Nails” by Max Lucado.

This study will run every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. ‘til 8 p.m. from April 14th until May 19th and will be lead by Pastor Ricky.

The deadline to register for this book study will be Thursday, March 19th, to have enough time to place the book order.

Each participant is asked to donate \$10 to offset the cost of the book.



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



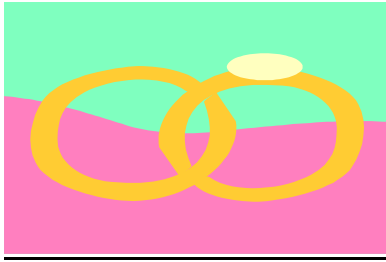
Being Part of a Family

Family members depend on each other for all kinds of things, big and small, for the good of the family. Just as our immediate family depends on us, so does our church family. No matter what your talent or how

NEED A HALL TO RENT? *Church Members, Special Guests, Families, Friends:*

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

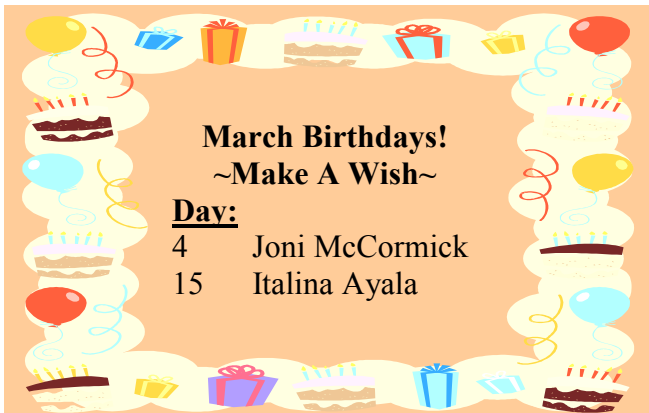
For more details, contact Joni McCormick, our Facility Coordinator at 610-828-1250 or jonimcc@verizon.net



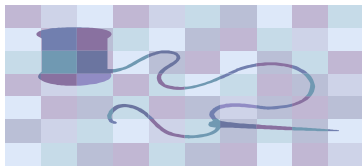
March Wedding Anniversaries

3/15 Rick & Anita Barton

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



If you are having a birthday in March 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”)
- 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

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.



Thank you from Mrs. Flickinger's 4th Grade Class - A special note of thanks from the children that received sweatshirts from the Mid-Week Ministry's Hoodie Drive in December.

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for bringing so much joy to my students. They were extremely excited to pick out a sweatshirt of their own. You put a smile on each of their faces.

God Bless. Love, Mrs. Flickinger and the students of Room 215: Asia, Jahmeer, Byron, Tysheyana, William, Jamal, Diamond, Quadaya, Makaël, Shante, Shaniqur, Montaya, Kayla, Tahjir, Timir, Sean, and Rodney.



Thanking the Children – Randi Wright would like to thank the children for making the fleece blanket for the consumers at the Norristown Hospitality Center. Sherri Hockman and the consumers loved the angels, the card, and the blanket with Luke 2:8-12 on it. One person stood up and asked if he could use it as soon as we gave it to them. It was a blessing to work with the kids. Thanks again.

Many thanks to the GOD SQUAD for the prayer bear given to me. It's comforting to know that people are praying for me. Thanks again. Mike Marine



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009 UPDATE FROM BISHOP PEGGY A. JOHNSON AND THE CONFERENCE SESSIONS COMMITTEE

Change in venue for Annual Conference 2009:

**Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks,
100 Station Road, Oaks, PA 19456**

June 16-18, 2009

The Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks has just opened its doors in January! We have found the Expo Center to have many advantages over Eastern University: all activities will be held under one roof - Clergy and Laity Sessions, Ordination, Vendors/ Exhibitors and the Cokesbury Bookstore. The Expo

Center is handicapped accessible with plenty of free parking.

Since there are no hotels on the premises, Annual Conference will be a "commuter" event. We will, however, be holding discounted blocks of rooms at area hotels if you find you need to stay over. This list of hotels will be included in your registration information and you will be responsible for making your own hotel reservation and for payment.

We look forward to seeing you in June at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks!!



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. 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 – March 17th

Christian Education meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17th at 6pm. 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.

Ministry for Preteens and Teens

The mid-week ministry for teens and preteens will meet on March 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.

Children's Sunday

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

Youth (4th-9th) Fellowship Event – March 14th Riding Fire Trucks in St. Patty's Parade

On Saturday, March 14th the youth ages 4th through 9th grade will be honored guests of Conshohocken Fire Company #2 in The AOL St. Patrick's Day Parade on Fayette Street. Come out to the parade and support our Youth Fellowship Group. 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.

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.

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.

Kid's Worship Time: Kindergarten – Teens:

Children in Kindergarten through teens can opt to leave our main worship service after the children's moment and participate in a "kid-friendly" bible lesson 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 and Children's Sunday.

	Kid's Worship Time Schedule	
2/15	Outreach Trip	
2/22	Children's Sunday & Church Breakfast	
3/1	Lee Guagliata	Mark Atkinson
3/8	Michele Mitchell	Rachel Clark
3/15	Larry & Susan Delaney	Lynda Lawrence
3/22	Outreach Trip	
3/29	Children's Sunday & Church Breakfast	
4/5	Michele Conner	Lucy Vetrone
4/12	Dyan Rhoads	Lyn Barr
4/19	Outreach Trip	
4/26	Children's Sunday & Church Breakfast	
5/3	Lee Guagliata	Mark Atkinson
5/10	Michele Mitchell	Rachel Clark
5/17	Larry & Susan Delaney	Lynda Lawrence
5/24	Outreach Trip	
5/31	Children's Sunday & Church Breakfast	
6/7	Michele Conner	Lucy Vetrone
6/14	Dyan Rhoads	Lyn Barr

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.

**** New ****

Mid-Week Ministry for Senior Adults (55+) – Thursday, March 19th

Come out and test your skills on Wii Bowling, challenge others with your quick wit and trivia knowledge on Jeopardy or join in on other games as CUMC hosts it's first Game Day for Seniors. The games begin at 10am until 12noon. Lunch will be provided. Free event, bring your friends!

**** New ** Movie Night: March 8th at 6:00pm**

At work, inside burning buildings, Capt. Caleb Holt lives by the old firefighter's adage: Never leave your partner behind. At home, in the cooling embers of his marriage, he lives by his own rules. As the couple prepares to enter divorce proceedings, Caleb's father challenges his son to commit to a 40-day experiment: "The Love Dare." This is a free event; bring your friends and family.

Movie: FIREPROOF
Date: Sunday, March 8th
Time: 6:00pm
Place: CUMC

Note: Free Childcare Available; please reserve your child's space by calling the church office at 610-828-1250. Questions, please call Lynda Lawrence at 610-828-9040 or email at maylboxx@aol.com.

**** New ** Local Missions Team – Next Meeting Tuesday, March 10th at 7pm**

First meeting for local missions was a huge success with lots of great ideas. Join us on March 10th at 7pm to discuss and schedule 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 Greg Kriebel at 610-828-2039 or email gckriebel@comcast.net

**** New ** Covered Dish – Wednesday, March 18th at 6:00pm**

Come out and enjoy good food and fellowship on Wednesday, March 18th at 6:00pm. Bring a dish to share, drinks will be provided. Questions or comments contact Lee Guagliata at 610-940-0597 or email mommybear1956@aol.com. The facts are on the table: eating dinner together keeps the doors of communication open. It's the perfect time and place to reconnect with everyone. Sitting across the table is where and when you can find out more about church member's likes, dislikes, and daily life.

Safe Sanctuary Certification Made Easy!

Not Safe Sanctuary certified yet? Please join us on Sunday March 8th right after church. We will have access to the computers to register you for your clearances and you can view the Safe Sanctuary video. Any questions see Judy Rhoads or Michele Mitchell.



Finance Team Corner

The Finance Team would like to acknowledge and thank all those, members and special guests, who have supported our Alternative Gift program, our Gift Card sales, and the children's Wawa hoagie coupon sales. In March we will be taking orders for garden bulbs and the children will continue selling Wawa hoagie coupons. Also, at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Conshohocken on Saturday, March 14, CUMC volunteers will be selling food & drink in front of the church to parade watchers. Please come out and support this fund raising effort. Later this year we will be having car washes, a yard sale, and of course the July 4th BBQ ribs. Thanks to all of you who have committed to helping the church meet our goals and financial challenges.

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:

St. Patrick's Day Parade: The parade this year will be on Saturday, March 14, starting at 2:00 pm and we will have a concession stand like last year for sale of hot dogs, soda, water, etc. If you want to help out, please contact Carleton Cox, 610-531-6325 or 610-360-1195.

Garden bulb sale: With spring just around the corner, CUMC will be taking orders for bulbs from March 8 through April 6. There will be a large variety of perennial bulbs to choose from. Gardening aficionados take note! If you do not have a green thumb, you can still help. Instead of giving Mom, Grandmom, your wife, etc., a live bouquet of flowers for Mother's Day, please consider giving (and planting) bulbs that she can enjoy every year! If you have friends, relatives or neighbors who plant bulbs, please take an order form home with you and return it to Carolyn Yakonic or Carleton Cox before the April 6 deadline.

2009 Finance Update:

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. The Fayette Street Grill fundraiser brought in \$1,330 of cash and cost \$836 for a net of \$494. The January Concert Style Worship brought in \$229 and cost \$113 for a net of \$116.

YTD through January 31, 2009 we collected \$10,964.15 through general tithes and offering. We received rental income of \$3,150. Fundraiser and other income totaled 1,301.71. Memorials received amounted to \$910. Total cash received was \$16,325.86. Total expenses paid were \$24,500.80 for a loss of \$8174.94.

Conference Loan Balance: \$238,546.00

Janney Montgomery Loan Balance: \$41,786.00

The Conference Loan Balance represents the balance remaining on the \$300,000 the church borrowed from the conference in 2004 for the extensive building repairs. The loan is for 10 years with an interest rate of 6.5%. We are making payments of \$3,415 a month, and will continue to repay this loan through 2014.

The Janney Montgomery Loan Balance represents the money borrowed against the Aqua America stock the church owns. The church is allowed to borrow up to 50% of the value of the shares owned; this loan has a variable interest rate that was 7.75% at December 31. This money was used to fund budget deficits for 2007 and 2008. The church is NOT currently repaying this loan.

Annual Stewardship Campaign:

As of January 31, we have received pledges totaling \$112,012.00 for 2009. If you would like to submit a pledge for 2009 you still can! 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, the Finance Secretary will send a confirmation letter to you. If you are interested in having your 2009 pledge automatically debited from your bank account, please contact Bill Pope, the Finance Secretary.

Year end giving statements for 2008 have been sent out. If you did not receive yours, or if there was an error in your giving statement, please contact Bill Pope, our Finance Secretary.



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!!!***

Conshohocken UMC

Worship Visioning Workshop

February 4th, 2009

Traditional Service			Other Thoughts		Contemporary Service	
Sing familiar songs such as: How Great Thou Art & Standing on the Promises	Dance and other types of worship in service	Music used to transition in services i.e. Happy-praise to quiet-prayer	Concert-Style Worship Service: More People to Share in this experience	Go back to using Names Tags since there are so many new faces	A Strong Minister of Music to Lead Contemporary Service	Dance and other types of worship in service
			Pantomime	Worship offsite		
Show clips from a movie/or TV show that relates to sermon	Sermon	Singers knowing the songs to be able to lead congregation	Share Good News about outreach and testimonies	Contemporary Service held on Saturday or Sunday Night?	Invitation to the altar during prayer time (not just at Pastor's Altar call)	Spontaneity In service/ As Spirit Leads/ i.e. call for baptism etc
	Choir		Have people do special times			
	More use of Organ					
Always have "Passing the Peace", we are a welcoming family church	Young girls with adult choir	Sing communion responses	Try adding guitar/rhythm to some FWS & UMH music	No Singing during passing of the peace	Upbeat music (Guitar, drums, etc)	Show clips from a movie/or TV show that relates to sermon
Teach Congregation new songs	Ushers: Have knowledge of what's going on	Scripture tied into sermon	Would like to see greeters on Wesley Hall entrance for those entering from	Greeters seat visitors	Praise Songs (More selections)	Sermon
More traditional hymns	Use Apostle's Creed (and other creeds occasionally)	Choir location: Assemble around piano rather than mics up front (moving around can be distracting)	All-Church-Lunches	All-Church-Breakfasts	Singers knowing the songs to be able to lead congregation	Always have "Passing the Peace", we are a welcoming family church
			coffee time and Sunday School	Early Traditional Service would be good		
Invitation to the altar during prayer time (not just at Pastor's Altar call)	Alternate types of music during communion/ Offering: -solo -small ensemble -choir -Instrumental -Piano or Congregation hymns	Communion at the rail (altar)	Upgrade Sound system (so that way it doesn't have to be so loud)	Welcoming Crew	Have one or two leaders to lead music (i.e. last Easter)	Teach Congregation new songs
				Make sure there's Sunday School		
Bring back anthem/ Special music and children sing during offering or communion)		Nursery available	Would like both services in the AM on Sundays	Keep Traditional at Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.	Ushers: Have knowledge of what's going on	Scripture tied into sermon
			Like Early Service			Communion at the rail (altar)

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

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: William Pope, 610-296-3818, ext 1343, bill.pope@McKesson.com

Members: Richard Barton, Roseann Toner, Chandler Crawford

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

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

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 kneeditup@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 484-684-7335 amhoffman507@comcast.net

“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”