



# Beyond The Red Doors

Conshohocken United Methodist Church

May 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”*

From the Pastor’s Desk:

The Body of Christ at Conshohocken UMC enjoyed the Lent season as we prepared to celebrate the Triumphant Entry of Jesus Christ on Palm Sunday (April 5<sup>th</sup>), reflect on His last hours before being crucified on Holy Thursday (April 9<sup>th</sup>) and rejoiced at His resurrection on Easter Sunday (April 12<sup>th</sup>). He is risen. He is Risen, Indeed!!

We surely don’t want to take anything away from this time of enjoyment of worshiping our Lord and Savior, but we also want to inform you that even in the midst of this celebration, the body of Christ is suffering in a part that not many people are aware of; the part of our finances.

Our Finance team has written an article in this newsletter to let us know the state of the church’s situation (*see page 3*). Representatives of the team will be sharing a presentation on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, following the worship services. We encourage you to remain to hear our current financial situation and how we plan to change it around with God’s help and your efforts. You don’t have to stay for both Sunday presentations (the same information will be shared). We simply wanted to make sure people had the opportunity to hear and see the presentation on two different dates, in case they aren’t able to make one of them.

Our next Special service will take place on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. as we celebrate Mother’s Day at CUMC. Adding to this special service will be the baptism of a beautiful baby girl. We pray you will join us in worship!

Happy Mother’s Day,

Pastor José “Ricky” Ayala



### CUMC Fun-draiser

**When:** Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

**Where:** 6<sup>th</sup> Ave side of church

**Help is needed** to cover various areas of the car wash stations. Lunch will be provided!!!

Stations include:

- Holding signs for potential customers
- Tires
- Pre-wash
- Soap/Clean
- Rinse (w/ pressure washers)
- Drying

Please call Pastor Ricky if you’re able to assist in this fun-draising effort for CUMC (even if you can only help for a portion of the time listed above).



### 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.



**Thinking of You**

Each month, Ginny Teaford will be highlighting a homebound member of our church family. Please consider sending a personal note or a “Thinking of You” card to brighten that persons spirits.

This month's member is:

**EDNA GARNETT**  
**127 W. 6TH AVENUE**  
**CONSHOHOCKEN, PA 19428**

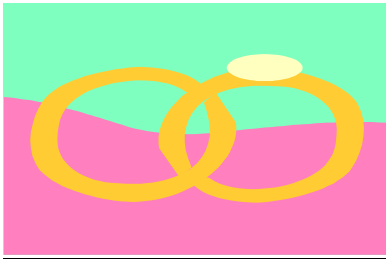


**NEED A HALL TO RENT?**

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

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

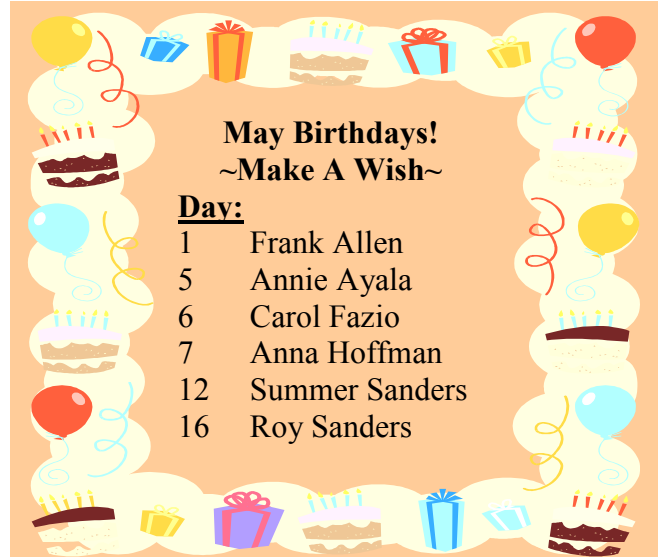
For more details, contact Joni McCormick, our Facility Coordinator at 610-828-1250 or [jonimcc@verizon.net](mailto:jonimcc@verizon.net)



**May Wedding Anniversaries**

- 5/20 Ed & Karen Bernier
- 5/29 Dave & Lynn Barr

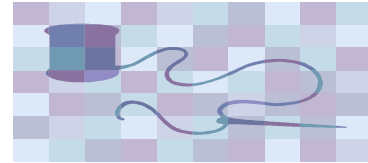
If you are having an anniversary in May are not listed here, that means we do not have a record of your wedding anniversary. Please call the church office with that information.



**May Birthdays!**  
**~Make A Wish~**

- Day:**
- 1 Frank Allen
  - 5 Annie Ayala
  - 6 Carol Fazio
  - 7 Anna Hoffman
  - 12 Summer Sanders
  - 16 Roy Sanders

If you are having a birthday in May 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.



**CUMC is the Place to Be**

## **Finance Team Corner**

### **2009 Finance Update:**

Pledges are behind budget through the first quarter 2009. Cash collected for the first quarter was \$56,192. Expenses paid for the same period totaled \$64,813 resulting in a loss of \$8,621. CUMC had approximately \$7,000 of unpaid bills at the end of the first quarter. The church is currently in a liquidity crisis. The church has sent a letter to the conference requesting a deferral of the principal payments on the 10-year \$300,000 loan entered into in 2006 as part of the capital campaign to refurbish the building, replace the slate roof, and new outreach programs and ministries. The church currently pays \$3,450 a month and this deferral would reduce the monthly payment to an interest only payment of approximately \$1,000 per month.

The church is also considering halting its portion of support payments to the conference for the world service fund and the connectional ministries fund (these payments are \$1,042 a month). This payment was made for January and February, but is part of the \$7,000 in unpaid bills at the end of March.

***The financial state of the church will be presented to the congregation after the service on April 26 and May 3.*** Please plan to attend one of these presentations. The Finance Team will explain why these financial issues are particularly severe this year, how we got to this point, what steps we are taking in the near-term to keep CUMC solvent, and what we as a Congregation need to do in the long-term to achieve financial solvency and stability.

We should keep in mind all the wonderful things that are being done at CUMC in God's name, how these things touch so many people, young and old alike, and how much energy and effort our paid staff and lay volunteers put into these wonderful activities and events. Keeping our doors open, continuing to do God's work in the Conshohocken community, and providing the financial support to our paid staff and to our many programs and activities is a "must."



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **Christian Education Meeting – May 19th**

Christian Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19th 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](mailto:maylboxx@aol.com) or 610-828-9040.

### **God Squad's Last Day – May 17th**

The last day of Sunday School will be on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. The children will end this school year by planting flowers and beautifying CUMC. Afterwards, they will enjoy an end-of-the year party with their friends.

### **New Team Members for Christian Education**

Dyan Rhoads and Michele Mitchell were officially voted onto the Christian Education Team. Both bring exciting and creative ideas to the team!

### **Ministry for Preteens and Teens**

The mid-week ministry for teens and preteens will meet for the last time this session on May 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Lvetrone413@gmail.com) Mr. Dave at [davidmontemayor453@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Kid's Worship Time: Kindergarten – Teens:**

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Volunteer</u>	<u>Volunteer</u>
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Michele Conner	Lucy Vetrone
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dyan Rhoads	Lyn Barr
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Lee Guagliata	Mark Atkinson

### **God Squad's Mission is The Heifer Project.**

*Children will be collecting money to purchase animals to help fight poverty and hunger. Please consider helping their cause by giving a small donation. So far, the children have raised \$50.00!!!!*

#### ***Heifer's Mission to End Hunger***

#### **Heifer's mission is...**

To work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth.

#### **Heifer's strategy is...**

To "pass on the gift." As people share their animals' offspring with others – along with their knowledge, resources, and skills – an expanding network of hope, dignity, and self-reliance is created that reaches around the globe.

#### **Heifer's History**

This simple idea of giving families a source of food rather than short-term relief caught on and has continued for over 60 years. Today, millions of families in 128 countries have been given the gifts of self-reliance and hope.



#### **Flock of Chicks**

##### ***Chicks: A Good Choice***

A flock of chicks can help families from Cameroon to the Caribbean add nourishing, life-sustaining eggs to their inadequate diets.

The protein in just one egg is a nutritious gift for a hungry child. Protein-packed eggs from even a single chicken can make a life-saving difference.

Heifer helps many hungry families with a starter flock of 10 to 50 chicks. A good hen can lay up to 200 eggs a year - plenty to eat, share or sell. With Heifer recipients' commitment to pass on the offspring and training, the exponential impact of adding chickens to communities in poverty is truly a model that helps end hunger and poverty.

Because chickens require little space and can thrive on readily available food scraps, families can make money from the birds without spending much. And chickens help control insects and fertilize gardens.



## **Heifer** *Heifers Equal Hope*

When a family has a cow, every morning there's a glass of rich milk for the children to drink before heading off to school. Classes are paid with the income from the sale of milk, and there's even enough to share with the neighbors.

A good dairy cow can produce four gallons of milk a day - enough for a family to drink and share with neighbors. Milk protein transforms sick, malnourished children into healthy boys and girls. The sale of surplus milk earns money for school fees, medicine, clothing and home improvements.

Better still, every gift multiplies, as the animal's first offspring is passed on to another family-then they also agree to pass on an animal, and so on.

And because a healthy cow can produce a calf every year, every gift will be passed on and eventually help an entire community move from poverty to self reliance. Now that's a gift worth giving! For more information, go to [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

### **Honoring Mothers**

Mothers, whether you call them mommy, mother, grandma, grandmother, nana, mamou, daughter, sister, aunt, stepmom, friend etc., they deserve to be

recognized every day, but especially on the day that has been set aside in their honor.

Whatever you choose to do to honor the special moms in your life on Mother's Day is a personal decision, and as long as you remember her on Mother's Day and all other days of the year, it is keeping with the true meaning and spirit of the day.

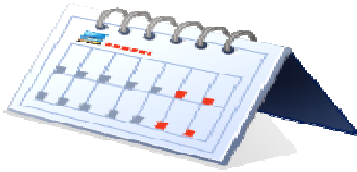
The dictionary defines honor as "to hold in honor or high respect; revere." What does it mean to honor your mother? It may include paying her a visit, giving her a gift, sending her a card, making a telephone call to her, writing her a letter, even wearing a special flower on that day to commemorate whether she is living or dead. All these things are nice, but CUMC has created a unique way to show your appreciation. . Consider an "alternative gift" one that keeps on giving. Monetary gifts to CUMC can be made "in honor of" or "in memory of" your Mother. A beautiful acknowledgement card, without reference to the amount of the gift, will be sent by CUMC to the recipient to let her know the donation has been made in her honor. We will also include any special sentiments you wish to make.

The individuals being honored or memorialized will be recognized in a special insert in the Mother's Day bulletin and monthly newsletter. If you have questions, please contact Jenn Kriebel at (610) 828-2039.

Honor Gifts are a thoughtful way to honor your Mother while helping the church. Donations are tax deductible

Honoring of motherhood is not of man, but of God. We honor mothers, not because of a Congressional resolution, but because of a divine teaching. We honor mothers, not just one day of the year, but throughout the year. Since ancient times motherhood has been considered a great and special blessing. God commanded through Moses, "Honor thy father and thy mother...." (Exodus 20:12).

Be thankful for our mothers,  
for they love with a higher love...  
from the power God has given,  
and the strength from up above.



Save the date – Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> – for the annual Forteniter’s Dinner.



**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!!



**Administrative Board Meetings in 2009:**

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.

The Next Service will be held on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

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!

**DONATION CARD ORDER FORM**

Please complete the form below and return it with your check made payable to:  
Conshohocken United Methodist Church  
20 West 6th Avenue  
Conshohocken, PA 19428

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you would like the acknowledgement card sent directly to you instead of the gift recipient for personal delivery or packaging.

**Honor Donation**

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Send card to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Special Sentiment \_\_\_\_\_

**Memorial Donation**

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Send card to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Special Sentiment \_\_\_\_\_

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**DETACH HERE**

**Please complete this section, detach and retain it for your records  
as proof of your tax deductible contribution**

Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_/2008

Conshohocken United Methodist Church, 501(c) (3) religious organization –Tax ID #23-1389415  
Conshohocken United Methodist Church 20 W. 6th Ave Conshohocken, PA 19428



## Conshohocken United Methodist Church

30754 Sixth Avenue  
Conshohocken, PA 19128  
(610) 538-1300

### 2009 CUMC Personnel Information

#### Staff

Pastor – Jose “Ricky” Ayala (w) 610-828-1250 [pastorricky@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:jonimcc@verizon.net)

Sexton – Bob Maziarz 610-825-0563 [maze1958@verizon.net](mailto:maze1958@verizon.net)

#### Teams

**Lay Leader** - Rick Barton 610-397-1581 [rickdbarton@msn.com](mailto:rickdbarton@msn.com)

**People Chair**- Dr. Gary Atkinson 610-828-8946 [gary.atkinson@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:gckriebel@comcast.net)

Members: Nancy Maguire

**Christian Education Director** - Lynda Lawrence 610-828-9040 [maylboxx@aol.com](mailto:maylboxx@aol.com)

Members: Lila Backenstose, Joanne Lapinski, Michele Conner

**Finance Chair**- Carleton Cox 610-327-0552 [coxmaps@worldnet.att.net](mailto:coxmaps@worldnet.att.net)

Treasurer: Jennifer Kriebel 610-828-2039 [jennmyers13@hotmail.com](mailto:jennmyers13@hotmail.com)

Finance Secretary: William Pope, 610-296-3838 x1343 [bill.pope@McKesson.com](mailto:bill.pope@McKesson.com)

Members: Richard Barton, Chan Crawford

**Worship Chair**- Dr. Bukola Ogunkua 610-272-0537 [bukogunkua@aol.com](mailto:bukogunkua@aol.com)

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

**Administrative Council Chair**- Jake Kriebel 610-828-6479 [jakekriebel@comcast.net](mailto:jakekriebel@comcast.net)

Administrative Council Recording Secretary: Randi Wright

**Property Team Chair**- James Lapinski 215-768-6472; 610-834-0715 [jr1001@verizon.net](mailto:jr1001@verizon.net)

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

#### Programs

Media Relations Coordinator: Lyn Barr 610-213-5161 [kneeditup@msn.com](mailto:kneeditup@msn.com)

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

Health & Welfare Ministries Coordinator: Virginia Teaford 610.828.9792 [ygin40@msn.com](mailto:ygin40@msn.com)

Membership Secretary: Ruth Thomas 610-941-4392 [manda3724@aol.com](mailto:manda3724@aol.com)

Church Historian: Dr. Gary Atkinson 610-828-8946 [gary.atkinson@verizon.net](mailto:gary.atkinson@verizon.net)

Beyond the Red Doors Newsletter: Anna Hoffman 484-684-7335 [amhoffman507@comcast.net](mailto:amhoffman507@comcast.net)