



# The Methodist Herald

October, 2009

**Southern Delaware Charge  
Colchester Community United Methodist Church  
East Branch/Harvard United Methodist Church**

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## Pastor's Column:

I am currently taking a Firefighter I class through the New York State Fire Service. This is the basic entry level class that all firefighters take to learn the essential skills needed to safely fight fires. The skills we work on learning are physically demanding and after a three hour class in the evening, I come home exhausted.

The first thing we learn is how to properly and quickly put on all our personal protective equipment – boots, pants, jacket, hood, helmet, and gloves. We have to master doing this in one minute or less. Then we have to learn how to put on our face mask and air tank. The goal is to don our protective equipment, air tank, and mask and be on our self-contained air within two minutes. I almost have it down!

From that point on, everything we do in the class, we do in full gear with our air tanks on. Last night we got introduced to “the maze.” The maze is a trailer with a wooden maze built inside that includes holes in the floor, windows you have to crawl through, a long narrow crawl space you have to wiggle through on your belly, dead ends, and moveable openings so it can be reconfigured. We have to negotiate this maze in complete darkness on your hands and knees staying as low as possible in full gear and on your self-contained air. They make you keep going around the maze until you run out of air.

There is nothing quite like the feeling of being in a tight confined space in the dark,

feeling your low air alarm going off, knowing you are almost out of air and you have to get out! Even worse is trying to take a breath and having nothing there at all! The tank is empty!

This experience seems to parallel how we often go through life. Things are going OK in our lives and we do not worry about our spiritual air tanks, content to go along as though we do not really need them. But then we face a time of trial. We get jammed up in a tight spot in the dark and the alarm is sounding on our spiritual air tanks – the tank is almost empty. When we need our spiritual resources and our faith the most we may go to take a breath of spiritual air and find that we get nothing because we have let our spiritual tanks run dry.

Hebrews 10:23-25 reminds us to “Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, *not neglecting to meet together*, as is the habit of some, *but encouraging one another*, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” We need to make time in our lives to fill our spiritual air tanks – to attend worship, to fellowship together, to read and study Scripture, to pray, and to serve. That way when we get jammed up in a tough spot and we really need it, our spiritual air tanks will be full and we can breathe easy in faith.

God's peace and blessings to you all,

*Dale*

Pastor Dale

## **AC Connection**

There are many exciting events happening in our District in the next few months. By the time you read this we will have participated in the District Workshop in Monticello that were advertised in the church bulletins. It is my hope that we had a few more participants this year from our church.

In November there is an exciting choral event being planned at the Overlook UMC in Woodstock. Choirs from the entire district will be invited to be a part of Festival of Song. The concert begins at 4 p.m. but choirs will be meeting at 1 p.m. to rehearse together for the first time. More information will be forthcoming so please check your bulletins for times and places. Please try to plan to attend what promises to be a wonderful afternoon of music and worship. We can probably carpool so look for sign-up sheets later in the month.

The District has many more exciting events planned for 2010 and we hope you will be able to take advantage of all that they have to offer.

## **Faith in Action**

The following is an article regarding World Communion Sunday, which we will celebrate on Sunday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. Our mission offering for October, taken on the third Sunday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, will go to the World Communion Offering. The website for this article is <http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=5489299&ct=7328647&tr=y&aid=5386355>.

World Communion Sunday, one of the six churchwide Special Sundays of The United Methodist Church, is Oct. 4. World Communion Sunday provides scholarships for U.S. racial- and ethnic-minority students and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels.

World Communion Sunday's history dates to 1940 when the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America established Worldwide Communion Sunday as a global, interdenominational event. Prompted by the impact of World War II, the Methodist Church

received an offering on this Sunday for the Fellowship of Suffering and Service.

In 1971, The United Methodist Church changed the name of the observance to World Communion Sunday and redistributed the offering to support the Crusade Scholarship Program begun in 1944, the Ethnic Minority Scholarship Program and the Division of Chaplains & Related Ministries. In 1980, Chaplains and Related Ministries was moved to World Service funding, but the World Communion Sunday offering continued to assist racial- and ethnic-minority persons pursuing various avenues of ministry.

### **Scholarship programs**

Today, World Communion Sunday supports scholarship programs of the United Methodist General Boards of Global Ministries (GBGM) and Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM).

The faces and stories of the women dealing with addiction that Laura Pressley met while volunteering on a first-aid squad have stayed with her as she pursues a master's degree in counseling and addiction ministry at Methodist Theological School in Ohio. She hopes to create an inner-city residential treatment program for women of color.

"Being able to merge my passion for psychology and women's studies with my interest in addiction really clicked," Pressley says. "I know it's God's will for my life because I've never felt so much at peace with myself."

Pressley says that without scholarship help from funds raised on World Communion Sunday, she wouldn't have been able to sign up for classes this year. "I'm up to my ears in school debt," Pressley says. "It's only because of United Methodists who have given on World Communion Sunday that I am free to pursue the rest of my education without fear or anxiety."

GBGM's World Communion Scholarships receive half the offering. Formerly known as Crusade Scholarships, the money goes to international and U.S. racial- and ethnic-minority graduate students. At least one-half of the amount goes for ministries beyond the United States.

### **Worldwide mission**

Jean-Michel Basquin studies at South Dakota State University with help of a Crusade scholarship. Equipped with a doctorate in rural sociology, his goal is to help the Methodist Church of his native Haiti “shape a better future for the country.” Basquin says he couldn’t be thankful enough for the scholarship. “That scholarship is exactly what the church needs to fulfill its global mission,” he says. “It empowers people so they can empower others.”

GBHEM has two programs that benefit from the Special Sunday offering: Ethnic Scholarships for undergraduate students, and Ethnic In-Service Training Program for racial- and ethnic-minority persons seeking second careers in church-related vocations.

More than \$3 million has been raised through the Special Sunday offering in the past three years. In 2008, \$1,028,865 was given; in 2007, \$1,205,022; and in 2006, \$1,100,191.

### **Membership – More than a Name in a Book**

There are so many things we can be members of these days. We can be members of a sports team or a fan club. We can be members of an interest club or a civic organization. We can be members of a professional or trade organization. We can be members of a volunteer fire department or a political party. We can be members of a gym or a country club. Membership in each of these cases means different things. We may have certain privileges or perks for our membership. We may have expectations or responsibilities as a result of our membership. We may have access to people with similar interests, or to information and services as a consequence of our membership. We may pay membership dues in some cases.

So what does membership in The United Methodist Church mean? When we become members of The United Methodist Church through a local congregation, we become part of the body of Christ in the world, part of Christ’s universal church. We become a part of the living presence of Christ in the world, the hands and feet doing Christ’s work of revealing God’s

grace and bringing healing and transformation to the world. We also become a part of a community of faith, a family of believers who seek to grow as disciples of Christ.

As members of The United Methodist Church, we share a faith and a set of beliefs that we are called to live our lives by. We believe in God’s saving grace through Jesus Christ, freely available to all people. We believe in the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, the Holy Spirit at work in our world, and God’s gift of everlasting life offered to all people. We believe we are called to lead lives of integrity and grace, serving others humbly and joyfully, and working for peace and justice for all people in our world.

When we join The United Methodist Church as members, we promise to be loyal to The United Methodist Church and to do all in our power to strengthen its ministries. As members of a local congregation, we promise to faithfully participate in its ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. We make a commitment of ourselves to our church family, to its ministries, and to the body of Christ. We both give and receive fellowship, nurture, grace, encouragement, love, healing, and forgiveness within our community of faith and we are challenged to keep growing in faith and to share these things with those outside our community of faith.

Our churches in the Southern Delaware Charge are blessed to have many members, faithful people who have made a commitment to our church families and to Christ. Some have been members for longer than I have been alive and others have joined our family recently. The members of our churches are an essential ingredient in enabling us to be the church, the body of Christ in the world. And we need the active participation of *all* our members for our church to reach its full potential in responding to Christ’s call to ministry.

We are also blessed to have many friends who are active in our community of faith but who have not yet joined as members. And God continues to bring new people into our midst. For our members who for one reason or another have not been active in the life of our church of

late, we invite and encourage you to get reacquainted with your church family. We value your membership and would love to reconnect with you. For those interested in exploring membership in our church, we invite you to speak with Pastor Dale about a New Members class. And to all our church members and friends, if you have any questions or concerns related to our life together as a church family, please feel free to contact Pastor Dale anytime at 607-363-2362 or by email at [dldashby@frontiernet.net](mailto:dldashby@frontiernet.net) to discuss your concerns. Remember the church cannot be "church" without "U"!

### **Colchester Community UMC Natural Church Development (NCD) Process**

A question came up at our last council meeting and it's something we need to address. There was some confusion as to how the NCD process was working since we haven't had any "church" meetings after the initial survey meeting. The survey meeting helped us find our "minimum factor" which turned out to be Passionate Spirituality. The next thing we did as a committee was to meet with our Coach who helped us to plan activities and ways that we could enhance the spirituality of our members. There were many things that we have done over the year that were ways of helping us see where God is in our lives. For example, the bulletin boards in the hallway that asked "Where Did You See God This Week?" and "What Resources Do You Use In Your Spiritual Journey?"; the prayer cards; the prayer stones; the Lenten prayer centers and the monthly Day of Prayer that we have begun; the Advent calendars and devotionals; the Men's Breakfast Group and the new Women's Bible Study are all part of the ways we hope will help us all in our spiritual journey. In the near future the "church group" will be coming together again to re-take the survey and see if there has been any change at all in our minimum factor. That's the way the process works and even though it may seem that we haven't done anything since that first meeting, we as a committee have been busy behind the scenes hoping that we have in some way helped to increase the spirituality of our

church family. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments please don't hesitate to contact any of us and share your concerns with us.

Marcia Edel, John Hampel, Toni Vessey

### **Colchester Community UMC Offers New Women's Bible Study – Hannah's Prayer**

On October 6th we will be beginning a new Women's Bible Study group at the Colchester Community Church library. The group will meet on Tuesday mornings at 10am for 7 weeks. This is a short term study of seven chapters of 1 Samuel. The emphasis will be on individual prayer leading to prayers for our church, our community and our world. This study is open to any woman in the community who would like to share in some Christian fellowship and discussion; you need not be a member of the church to participate. Please come and invite your friends, too!

### **Colchester Community UMC is Still Looking for a Sunday School Superintendent**

The Colchester Community UMC is still looking for a person who feels called to serve as our Sunday School Superintendent. We ask all of you to prayerfully consider whether or not God is calling you to serve in this vital ministry to our children, helping us fulfill our vision statement. Please speak with Pastor Dale if you feel called to this special ministry.

### **Colchester Community UMC Church Council Chairperson's Chat**

*Be still and know that I am God...Ps 46:10*  
Our council meetings aren't just business meetings. This year they have become an opportunity for devotion and prayer as well. In September's meeting we answered the question, "How goes it with your soul?" It was a time of sincere sharing and openness, a very special time. There's no doubt that your busy Council needs to follow the wisdom of Psalm 46.

The Trustees have a lot of projects planned and are always looking for anyone who would have the time and the inclination to help out.

Talk with Brian or any of the Trustees if you would like to offer your time and talents. The Finance committee is working diligently on the 2010 Budget; our webmaster is adding to our Charge website links to the *Courier* which is the District Newsletter and *The Vision* which is the NYAC Newspaper. If you have computer access please take the time to look them over. There's always a lot of really great information in both of these publications. Ginny Davis, our Witness Chairperson, works very hard at acknowledging our visitors and sending cards to our members who are ill or in the hospital.

There are many wonderful things happening in our church; some are very obvious and others not so much. But in all things there is the hand of God leading us on to sharing our love and faith with our brothers and sisters in our church and in our community. Don't be afraid to approach any of us on the council if you have any questions or concerns and we will do our best to find the answers for you. Let us know how we're doing...

### **Colchester Community UMC October Day of Prayer**

This month's Day of Prayer will be held on October 21st from 10am till 7pm. There will be a table set up with resources for prayer and meditation or feel free to bring your own. If you cannot stay the hour any time that you can share with the Lord will be a blessing. Sign in sheets will be available so that we can have an idea of the participation in this new ministry. You need not be a member of our church to spend some time in prayer or meditation, so why not invite your friends to come along or to plan on coming by themselves.

### **Colchester Community UMC Bake Sale at the Maple Leaf Festival**

The Colchester Community United Methodist Church will be holding a bake sale at this year's Maple Leaf Festival on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Downsville Fire Hall. Persons wishing to donate baked goods for our sale can drop them off at the Downsville Fire Hall at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. So

come down and peruse all the displays and booths at the Maple Leaf festival and while you are there, buy some delicious baked goods to help support the ministries of our church.

### **Colchester Community UMC Open Arms Prayer Shawl Ministry**

September has been a busy month for prayer shawls. 4 shawls were delivered to Lois Zuill, Gail Stone, Bob Yevich and Bob Edwards. We hope they have brought comfort and some joy to those who are under the weather. Thanks again to Lorna Luscomb who crocheted 3 more shawls for us and to Joy Kurdt who donated yarn. As we come into prime knit and crochet weather we find our shelves depleted and would ask for donations of yarn, especially darker colors for men, medium sized gift bags and of course monetary gifts to purchase cards and supplies as needed. If you would like to donate your time, talent or resources to this ministry please contact Emily Bullis who currently chairs this wonderful ministry. As always, please pray for our shawl recipients and the helping hands that keep our ministry going.

### **Colchester Community UMC Krispie Kreme Donut Sale**

It is time for our Fall Krispie Kreme donut sale. Orders will be taken from Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> to Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> and the pick-up day will be Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:00 – 5:30 pm at the church. See Ginny Davis or one of her group of donut order takers and get your order in. Proceeds from the Krispie Kreme donut sale will go to help us with our apportionments, which are our shared ministry funds through The United Methodist Church. Our apportionments support global missions, peace and justice issues, Africa University, and many other local and global ministries.

### **Colchester Community UMC Angel Food**

We are still looking for 6 good men and/or women who are willing to travel to Sidney to pick up our orders once a month. Ideally we need 2 vehicles, either van or truck with a cover of some sort or an SUV, 2 men to load the trucks and someone either man or woman to

verify the count. The process begins **exactly** at 5am in Sidney so you need to be on time (earlier if you want to get there for a bit of breakfast supplied by the host church). Once your order is complete you return to the fire hall in Downsville where there are friends to help unload and set up for distribution. If we can get 2 more teams to add to the two teams we now have that would mean only **3** trips a year for each team. That would be such a relief for the fine folks who have been going every other month faithfully. If there is any way that you can give us some of your time 3 times a year to keep this valuable ministry going we would very much appreciate your help.

This month we are offering an opportunity to pre-order our Thanksgiving box. It's a nice value for small families who can't eat a large turkey dinner. The signature box, senior meals and allergen free foods are still available as well as our popular fruit and vegetable and meat specials. The signature box would be a great idea for those folks who have students living off campus. Order dates will be October 5, 7, and 10 in Downsville and Oct 8th in East Branch. For questions or comments or to volunteer contact Toni at 363-7363.

### **Colchester Community UMC Rummage Sale**

The Colchester Community UMC will be holding a Rummage Sale on Friday and Saturday, October 23 – 24 at the Downsville Fire Hall. Times for the rummage sale will be 9 am to 4 pm on Friday and 9 am to noon on Saturday. Saturday will be bag day at the rummage sale. Persons wishing to donate items for the rummage sale may drop them off at the Downsville Fire Hall on Thursday, October 22 between 2 and 4 pm.

### **Colchester Community UMC Youth Group**

The Youth Group will meet on Sunday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 3 pm at the parsonage for sports and games. If raining, we will watch a movie.

The Youth Group will be participating in the annual CROP Walk that is held in Walton on Sunday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. Others in the congregation wishing to join us on the walk are welcome.

Registration is at 1:30 p.m. at the Walton United Methodist Church and the walk starts at 2:00 p.m. The CROP Walk is sponsored by Church World Service, an organization dedicated to providing sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance in more than 80 countries. Our youth will be looking for people to sponsor them with donations as they undertake this 5 ½ mile walk and learn about helping others. Youth, grades 7-12, interested in participating should contact Pastor Dale at 363-2362 for a sponsor envelope as soon as possible. Please support our youth as they raise money through the CROP Walk. Checks should be made out to CWS CROP. All the youth participating in the walk need to drop off their sponsor envelope with their collected money and checks to Pastor Dale no later than Sunday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at church service. These sponsor envelopes are their registration for the walk. Anyone who took a sponsor envelope and then was unable to do the walk still needs to return the sponsor envelope to Pastor Dale.

### **East Branch/Harvard UMC Annual Auction**

The annual East Branch/Harvard UMC Auction is coming to the East Branch Fire Hall on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, starting at 4 pm. Bob Strain will once again be our auctioneer this year. Our auction will feature a large assortment of produce, baked goods, household items, and items donated by local businesses. Food and refreshments will also be available from the kitchen. If you have items that you would like to donate to the auction, especially larger items and furniture, please contact Louise Lombardi at 363-2594. We hope to see all of you for a fun-filled evening at our annual auction. The proceeds from the auction go to support the ministries of our church.

### **Church Humor**

For our pastor's 50th birthday, the congregation decided to give him a new suit. He was so touched by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and, with tears in his eyes, announced, "Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit."

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