



Tidings

TRAPPE/FAITH CHAPEL NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2015



LENTEN MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Have you ever noticed how every store has its own rules when it comes to returning previously purchased, but now unwanted items? Some set time limits of a certain number of days for the return of items. Some require a receipt as proof of prior relationship with the particular store. Some require that the item show no sign of damage or use whatsoever. If you waited too long, don't have your receipt, or tried the item out and were dissatisfied with it, then it can't be returned and you are stuck with it until the next church rummage sale.

The season of Lent is all about the grace found in "God's Return Policy." In it we are encouraged to return to the Lord our God and to be reconciled to God. (See Joel 2:12 and 2 Corinthians 5:20b)

"God's Return Policy" has:

1. No time limits:

The apostle Paul reminds us that no matter how long we may have put off acknowledging our broken relationship with God, "Now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation." We need not wait any longer to return to God. God's back is not to humanity; instead God is reaching out to us. Indeed, "Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.....come home...O sinner come Home." (UMH #348)

2. No requirement of proof of prior connection to God:

We are already connected. God knows us in ways far deeper than we possibly know ourselves. It was God who formed us before we were born. When we were baptized, God marked us as God's own children. When we have strayed or tried to hide ourselves from God because of our sinfulness, God has never lost track of us. (See Psalm 139 and Galatians 3:26-27)

3. No "like new" condition requirements:

When we first turned to faith in God in Christ through the Holy Spirit, confessed the ways we had lived broken lives in sin and resolved not to sin again, we received God's forgiveness. When we did so we became a new creation in Christ. (See 2 Corinthians) Sometimes though our resolve to sin no more fails, and we dirty and scuff things up a bit. Let us not forget that nothing is "able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (See Romans 8:38) We need not be in mint-in-box condition to return to God. God is the only one who can remove the dirt and scuff marks and restore the image of God in which we were originally created.

May we have a blessed Lent as we participate in God's grace-filled return policy!

Pastor Mary Catherine

ONGOING CALENDAR

1st, 2nd & 4th Thurs

Senior Choir Practice

2nd & 4th Saturdays

Breakfast and Yard Sale

2nd Saturdays

Youth Group 6:30

2nd Sundays

Fellowship following 11:00

Worship

2nd Wednesdays

UMW Meeting

UMM Meeting

3rd Thursdays

Administrative Council

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ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT



Trappe UMC

7 PM

Combined Service with Scott's UMC

-including the Imposition of Ashes and the sharing
of Holy Communion



Wesley's message and his faith continue to speak to 21st-century Christians—calling for a revival of our hearts and souls so that our world might be changed. We will join with Scott's at their church on this six-week journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels to England, following the life of John Wesley and exploring his defining characteristics of a Wesleyan Christian. Wesley's story is our story. It defines our faith and it challenges us to rediscover our spiritual passion.

Lent Bible Study 7:00-8:30 PM at Scott's UMC

February 25-April 1, 2015

February 25	Precursors to Revival-- <i>Epworth</i>
March 4	A Longing for Holiness-- <i>Oxford</i>
March 11	A Crisis of Faith-- <i>Georgia and Aldersgate</i>
March 18	The Necessity of Grace-- <i>Bristol</i>
March 25	Works of Mercy-- <i>The Foundry, London</i>
April 1	Persevering to the End-- <i>City Road Chapel, London</i>

Sign-up sheets with information on how to order books will be available at both Faith Chapel and Trappe in early February

FASHION SHOW AND TEA PARTY by Jane Brooks

Maybe spring is not too far away because the United Methodist Women of Trappe and Faith Chapel are planning a Fashion Show and Tea on Saturday, January 31, 2015, from 2:00 until 4:00 pm in Wesley Hall in Trappe.

Spring outfits will be featured, and delicious refreshments will accompany the tea. The interesting fact is that the fashion models are well-known and the clothes are mainly from Martha's Closet. Prices will be given for the various clothes, and they can be purchased after the event.

The Ladies hope you plan to attend and enjoy this Saturday afternoon event. Tickets can be purchased from UMW members for \$5.

PS Gentlemen are welcome, too!



SHOWING APPRECIATION FOR YOUR PASTOR

Here are some suggestions from Lovett H. Weems, Jr., and published in the October Easton District Newsletter:

Pray for them.

Prayer helps you and your clergy leaders understand your partnership in ministry and your mutual dependence on God.

Respect them.

It is crucial that you do not talk to them in ways you would not want or permit them to talk to you. Clergy can handle questions and criticism. They need them. But it is essential that you not add a layer of hostile attitude or attribution of motives to your conversation.

Respect boundaries.

It is easy for a pastor's life to become 24/7 — with all members feeling their situation, meeting, or question is the exception to respecting the pastor's personal time. It is the pastor's family and the pastor's well-being that often suffer the most from such blurred time boundaries.

Be positive.

Practice reframing both your concerns and those of others into opportunities to advance God's work through your congregation. Ask about things other than Sunday School room assignments. Pastors enter ministry because of their desire to help others know God through Christ and to grow as disciples. They invest years in study and then hours each week in preparing to preach and teach. They would gladly welcome thoughtful inquiries about the substance of their messages.

Support the mission of the congregation.

Good pastors most want their congregations to take the next faithful step that God has for them. No amount of personal affirmation can match the example of dedicated laity who are serving that vision.

It would be good to do something special to remind your pastors how much they mean to you and your congregation. But even better is to support and encourage them all through the year.

MEET OUR NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Dr. Shirlyn Henry Brown as the Easton District Superintendent effective July 1, 2015 upon the retirement of Rev. Gary Moore.

The Rev. Dr. Shirlyn Henry Brown is currently the Director of Connection Ministries of the Peninsula Delaware Conference of The United Methodist Church. "Pastor B" as she is lovingly known has a passion for kingdom building, kingdom living and loving the one and only King Jesus. The Rev. Dr. Shirlyn Henry Brown Shirlyn was from Odessa, Delaware and raised in Dover, Delaware. She completed her Bachelors and Masters degrees at Kansas State University where she began her journey into student leadership, visioning, training and implementing programs, using her creative strengths. She accepted her call to ministry in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference at Lee Haven UMC and Whatcoat UMC. Shirlyn received her M.Div. from Palmer Theological Seminary in PA in 2005 and her D.Min. at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC in 2011. Theatre and the arts have always been a teaching instrument in her call to ministry. With over twenty years of experience in Higher Education and community outreach, Shirlyn has a passion for serving the Creator in new and innovative ministries; while building on the firm foundation in Jesus Christ, the Lord. Dr. Brown was ordained as Elder in 2008. As a pastor, she has been responsible for leading her congregations in making disciples for Jesus Christ. She has been a servant leader-shepherd as a minister of campus outreach at Whatcoat, as student pastor at Mt. Pleasant/Quindocqua and as senior pastor at both Mt. Zion/St. James and Mt. Calvary/Hurlock



As the Director of Connectional Ministries the conference resource team has increased our ministries in several areas; a Small Membership Church training, a Local Pastor Licensing School and a Growing & Gathering Together for African American Pastors. In addition Dr. Brown has presented at The Fellowship of United Methodist Music and Worship Arts 2013 Conference on "Drama as a Bridge to Diversity", the design team for the 2014, "Rt. 122 – Discern, Develop and Send" Conference and serves as the Vice Chair to the Northeast Jurisdiction Director of Connectional Ministries group.

Shirlyn has one daughter, Angel and a son-in-law Michael, a step-daughter Tiffany Draper and four grandchildren Moira and Brendan Heinz, Indya and Omar Draper. As a mom, grandmother, pastor and friend, Pastor B believes in her heart that - "It is not about us, but all about God!" Her favorite scripture is Acts 11:15-17, "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"

(Reprinted from the Easton District Newsletter, December 2014)

The "Valuable Trash" Collection Continues!

Please continue to save Box Tops for Education for White Marsh Elementary School in Trappe and Labels for Education for Board of Child Care Eastern Shore in Denton BCCES in Denton.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: GIVING FROM OUR HEARTS TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

In November, seventy-two beautifully wrapped shoeboxes filled with items to delight children were collected for Operation Christmas Child. They are delivered in the United States and around the world to brighten a child's life, but more importantly to help them learn about Jesus and His love for them.

The next outreach project our churches undertook was collecting items for the Interfaith Shelter located in Easton. Here is the Thank You note received from Julie:

"Thank you so much for your extremely generous gifts of food and other necessities for our guests. Talbot Interfaith Shelter ay Easton's Promise is a really special mission and your contributions will help us keep our guests well cared for as they move from homelessness toward self-sufficiency.

Your congregation is so thoughtful and involved in bettering our community and we are grateful to be part of your mission."



Then in December, the UMW and UMM got together to bake and bag cookies for the inmates at the Talbot Detention Center. The *Star Democrat* even covered this event in an article by Chris Polk, who noted that 75 bags (about 900 cookies) were filled this year. Extra bags were sent to the Board of Child Care facility in Denton. Each bag also contained a message of love and one of three Bible verses: Luke 2:9-12 for Joy, Isaiah 9:6 for Peace, and Jeremiah 29:11-13 for Hope. Over the years, the ladies have also donated thousands of home-made cookies to veterans, making good use of their baking talents.

The next outreach project will be collection of individual packs of instant oatmeal, crackers, cookies, fruit cups, small cans of pastas (ravioli, spaghetti, etc.), cereal, and pudding/jello cups for Care Packs at White Marsh Elementary School here in Trappe. Bags are packed for individual needs and sent home with children on weekends to be sure they have enough to eat until they return to school on Mondays. Donations should be made during February, Your support helps spread the Love.



Pictures from the Cookie Night by Chris Polk, *Star Democrat*.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN AND UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS

Did you notice the beautiful lit tree beside the church? Thanks to Jerry Adams and the United Methodist Men for decorating the tree and bringing back a tradition to the church. Also thanks to everyone who donated to help purchase the lights. They will be back next December.

Not to be outdone in spreading holiday cheer, the United Methodist Women sent cookies to the inmates at the Talbot Detention Center with messages of Joy, Hope, and Peace. If you enjoy a lovely cup of tea, beautiful clothes, and a pleasant afternoon, plan to join the UMW on January 31 at 2:00 pm in Wesley Hall. For the price of only \$5, you can enjoy tea, delicious refreshments, and famous models at the Fashion Show and Tea Party. Monies raised will help cover church cleaning costs that UMW has been providing.

While the January meeting was delayed due to inclement weather, the February meeting is still set for February 11 at 6 pm. Both the UMM and UMW will sit down together for a cozy winter covered dish dinner, and then the two groups will have their meetings. Everyone is welcome to become part of these two active groups. Their hard work is greatly appreciated.

HOSTING LAITY AND PASTORS



Reprinted from the Easton District Newsletter

Trappe UMC hosted the District training on the Year-End Statistical & Financial Reporting for 2014. Approximately 65 Laity and Pastors gathered for breakfast, that was provided by the church, and the training. Dan Gustafson spoke about the Mission of the church and the Country Breakfast and Martha's Closet that is being offered by the church. What began as fundraising events for the church, has evolved into an outreach to the community of Trappe and beyond. Rev. Mary Catherine Miller is serving as the Interim Pastor.

Thank You Trappe UMC

Tidings

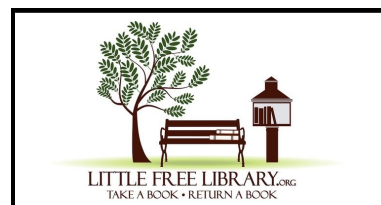
Next *Tidings* deadline: **March 15**
Next Edition for **April and May** published at the
end of March.

LIBRARY NEWS by Charlotte Edwards

The Little Free Library is inching closer to the curb. The box part arrived at the Yard Sale one morning in November. It was painted yellow, nicely decorated, and immediately identified as perfect for our needs. The roof arrived from Massachusetts compliments of my brother-in-law Bill Clapp (a master carpenter). He and my sister were visiting the same day the box part arrived at the Yard Sale. Bill took measurements and sent a roof via my other sister's return trip to Florida after Christmas. Was this a series of God Winks or what? (Remember the last book review.)

Now the roof has to be attached and the library mounted on a pole. Then the pole will be stabilized in the ground. Soon our Little Free Library will be the only library in the county open on nights, weekends, and snow days.

Plan to visit and enjoy many hours of happy reading.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS by *Tidings* Editor Cathy Sewell

**Sunday School classes for all ages are held at Trappe UMC
beginning at 9:45 am Sunday mornings.**

I have such fond memories of my Sunday School teachers over the years. They helped lay a foundation of learning and understanding that has touched every part of my life. As I read great pieces of literature in high school and college, I would have missed much of the deeper meanings held within the lines by the Biblical references. For example, because I understood what the tree in the garden of Eden represented, I knew what James Joyce's reference to it meant. Because I had a firm foundation, I could draw strength from Scripture when difficult times came. Because I was shown great love and caring by these faithful ladies and gentlemen who took time to prepare lessons and activities for Sunday School, I wanted to share, too, when I was teaching, not only on Sunday mornings, but in my career as an educator. My social life in the small town where I was raised revolved around the people I was with in Sunday School. Often we were invited to the teachers' homes for special gatherings. I am grateful for what Sunday School brought into my life.

Enrich someone's life—invite them to Sunday School!

TRAPPE FAITH CHAPEL CHARGE HAS A SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE



Dan Gustafson has taken up the challenge of completing the Local Pastor Certification and Licensing track with the United Methodist Church. This is a three-year course of study, which requires approval from the Pastor, the District Superintendent, and DCOM before beginning the program. Dan has been approved, and we all know he has a gift for preaching, so we wish him the very best as he begins this journey. Please keep him and his family in your prayers and lend your support in any way you can. God is at work on our Charge!

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS: JANUARY 15, 2015

- A Christian Education meeting was requested.
- Plans are being made for recognition of Native Americans during worship services and fellowship time on Sunday, June 14.
- A meeting of officers and chairmen to establish an official annual church calendar is set for Saturday, March 14 at 10:00 am.
- An Ash Wednesday Service is set for February 18 at 7 pm at Trappe UMC. Pastor Miller will deliver the sermon.
- A joint Lenten Bible Study will start on Wednesday, February 25 at Scotts UMC. Time is 7 to 8:30 pm.
- Trustees for Faith Chapel and Trappe UMC will meet on Saturday, February 7 at 10:00 am.
- The Red Stockings will be counted on Jan. 25, and the donation will be sent to the Denton Board of Child Care, so there is still time to contribute.
- This quarter's Special Project will be Care Packs with collections during February. Watch for information about items needed.
- Our charge is blessed to have a candidate for the ministry, Dan Gustafson. Dan hopes to become certified following completion of a three-year program. In order to support him, the Council voted to amend the 2015 budget to include a new line

Administrative Council Highlights are published monthly in the bulletin on the Sunday following the Council meeting to help members stay current on what is happening in the church. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting. If you have an item for the agenda, get in touch with Jane Brooks, Administrative Council Chairman.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 31	Fashion Show and Tea Party 2-4 pm	
February 7	Trustees Meeting of both Trappe and Faith 10 am	
14	Worship Committee Meeting 10 am	
18	Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm	
22	Everybody's Birthday and Cover dish dinner 4-6 pm (Sign up to decorate a table)	
25	Joint Lenten Bible Study at Scotts UMC 7-8:30 pm through April 1	
March 14	Meeting to set up an Annual Church Calendar 10 am—for all officers and chairmen	
17	St Patrick's Day Dinner to benefit scholarships to Camp Pecometh for our Sunday School and Youth Group	
TBA	Christian Education Meeting	

GREETERS AND USHERS by Ellen Whitby, Head Usher

I want to thank the greeters and ushers for November, December, and January.

Please check back with me for Greeters and Ushers for February and March.

God bless everyone,
Ellen

Editor's Note: Ellen has not been well and is recovering from a fall. Please keep her in your prayers for a speedy, full recovery.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY
TO EVERYONE WHO IS CELEBRATING!**



Copies of the **2015 Budget** will be available after the Charge Conference (January 21) in the bulletin or upon request. Highlights from the Charge Conference will be in the

The Tidings
is also available (and in color) on line at
<http://www.tfcumc.org/>