

**Peckville and Bradley Memorial United Methodist Charge  
Fall 2007 News Letter**

**From The Pastors' Pen**

**Grace and Peace to you all through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**It was nice to have a change of pace in the previous two months. The days were longer; the weather was warm and hot. Perhaps some of us had the opportunity to get away for a few days or to make some day trips. I hope that you had some time to relax and enjoy this time.**

**God wants us to relax. He taught us so when the Bible says that God rested on the seventh day. His Son, Jesus, had to get away from the crowds to pray and rest awhile. He was truly human and needed this. As we celebrated Labor Day we remember that God made us to work. It's time to be about the Lord's work. Don't become so wrapped up in the world that we forsake God.**

**2 Timothy 4:10**

**"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved the present world..."**

**In his famous allegory, "Pilgrims Progress", John Bunyan tells a story of two individuals, Christian and Hopeful, who are on their religious pilgrimage. While on the journey they began to discuss a character by the name of temporary. He had started the walk, but along the way he fell by the wayside, or, as Bunyan put it, he "backslide."**

**That term was picked up in early America and became a common phrase used in churches. It referred to those who were once faithful believers but who had lost their zeal and focus in their Christian walk.**

**Like it or not, we must all stay on guard or we could end up like Demas, forsaking the right way and drifting away from the things of God. I believe that anyone who is free to**

**choose Christ as Savior is also free to turn away from the Lord.**

**Let's keep looking up and moving forward. I am convinced that God has better things in store for us than we could ever imagine. Come and support God's church as we work together for the Kingdom.**

**Blessings,**

**Pastor Sharon and Fred**

**Conference news**

Since the beginning of the church, 2000 years ago starting with the Apostles, Christian leaders have discussed and pondered what it means to be the church and how best to use the resources God has given to us. This brings me to the most recent decision from our Annual Conference, the Wyoming Annual Conference.

A resolution has been adopted at a special session of the Wyoming Annual Conference Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> 2007 to change our Conference boundaries. The "therefore" portion of the resolution reads as follows:

**"Therefore, be it resolved,** that the Wyoming Conference strongly urge the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference meeting in July 2008, realign the conference boundaries along state lines with the New York churches becoming part of the new Episcopal area to the north, and the Pennsylvania church join with the Central Pennsylvania Conference"

So what does this mean to us on any given Sunday in the pews or our local ministries? Almost absolutely nothing. This change is not a spiritual or ministerial change, but rather an administrative type change.

FAQ's

**What has brought about this change?**

First back at the General Conference in 2004 it was learned that the General Conference would reduce the number of Bishops by at least one during the 2008 General Conference. This meant that a small annual conference like Wyoming would probably be absorbed into a larger conference. Wyoming Conference, wanting to have as much control over their / our future started dialog with several contiguous annual conferences to explore options. This resolution is the result of those discussions and prayerful

considerations. This not the final step, but if all goes by plan will be in effect sometime in 2010.

### **What conditions changed to bring about the need for a larger conference / episcopal area?**

Two conditions changed. First the total membership of the United Methodist Churches in our area has been in decline since the 1960's. Secondly an expository improvement in communication and transportation has occurred over the 155 years since our predecessors saw the need to create the Wyoming Conference out of a portion a larger conference in 1852. With less people to shepherd and more efficient means of communication and transportation a larger annual conference makes sense.

### **What about Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center?**

While Bradley Memorial and Peckville UM churches will no longer be part of the Sky Lake Corporation, its use has always been open to anyone regardless of church or conference affiliation. In fact many times when the Peckville winter retreat is using the facilities other groups from other denominations are also enjoying this wonderful place.

### **Episcopal area, are we becoming Episcopal?**

Episcopal is one of those "churchy" word used to describe an area lead by a bishop. Our current episcopal area is "The Albany Episcopal Area" This Episcopal area includes two Annual Conferences, Troy Annual Conference and Wyoming Conference. For more information go to [UMC.org](http://UMC.org) and go to [Our Church](#) then to [Structure & Organization](#).  
Tom Taylor – associate lay member to conference

### **Sunday School Resumes**

Peckville's Sunday school resumed on Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup> with classes for every age group. Please remember that Sunday School starts at **9:45a.m.** sharp!!

### **Peckville Worship**

Peckville worship returned to 11:00am on Sunday, September 9.

### **A word from Peckville's Director of Music Come Join The choir!!!**

If you like to sing and can carry a tune, please join us each Thursday evening at 6:45 p.m. in the downstairs fellowship hall for rehearsal. We are always happy to have new members join us or if you haven't sung with the choir in a while, we'd be happy to have you back to join us as we lift our voices to "Praise God"!

We have lots of choir robes and there'll be one to fit you, even if we have to make some adjustments. We rehearse weeks ahead, as a rule, so if it isn't possible to attend every Thursday, don't let that keep you from joining us. If you aren't just sure and would like to talk about choir, please contact me at 489-6093. The Choir is a great ministry, come join us!

Bonny Taylor, Director

### **A word from the Lay Member to Conference**

#### **What is the lay member for the Peckville/Bradley Charge?**

The lay member to Annual conference is a person elected at the Annual Church Conference to represent and vote for laity of the local churches. There is also an alternate in case the voting member cannot attend and that person has the right to vote. The lay member is also on church committees and brings information to the churches from the Annual conference.

I was elected lay member in 1960 and was preceded by Edwin Kinback in 1959, when Peckville was a single charge.

It has been my privilege to represent the Peckville and Bradley Memorial Churches since 1979, when this charge was formed.

Your servant in Christ,  
Bonny Taylor

### **Roast Beef Dinner**

Peckville's annual roast beef dinner will be held

Saturday, November 3, 2007

Serving: Take outs 3:30 to 5:30 PM

Eat in 5 to 6:30 PM

Donation: Adults (in Advance) \$9.00  
(at the Door)10.00

Children under 12 years \$4.50

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**Report from the finance chairperson**

When we are reading this newsletter, schools will be back in session and most vacations will be tapering off and most swimming pools will be covered. Hopefully most of us will have had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the fall activities of school, sports and other events. Our church will be returning to regular services and planning meetings will be held.

The church finances taper off in the last few months; but the expenses stay the same. Let us examine our church giving and commit ourselves to regular offerings to the church. With so many of our older members no longer with us our offerings have been slimmer. Don't forget to include the church in your family budget – the future of our church will depend upon it.

We should all consider including our church in our wills. A gift memory of a loved one will insure the security and future of our church. Enjoy the fall season and I hope to see you in church.

Respectively yours,  
Bob Elvidge – Finance Chairperson

**You're PPRC**

**Each church/charge in the United Methodist Church has a Pastor/Parish Relations Committee (PPRC). This committee is a group of people selected by the nominating committee, and then confirmed at charge conference, with each person being appointed for a 3 year term.**

**The PPRC tries to meet quarterly, or whenever a need arises for them to deal with matters directly involving parishioners and the pastor. The pastor may ask the committee to convene to try to resolve an issue he/she may be having with someone. Conversely, a parishioner may ask the PPRC to meet if they are having an issue with the pastor.**

**The secret to success with this organizational structure is to deal with issues up front and openly, and just as importantly in a timely manner in order that they do not exacerbate.**

**Requests to convene the PPRC should be made to the chairperson of the PPRC who, in the case of Peckville/Bradley Charge is presently George Parker.**

**Whenever problems arise, as in anything in life, you are encouraged to bring them to the attention of the PPRC as early as possible, in order that they may be resolved at the lowest level of intensity, thus avoiding misunderstanding or escalation of the issue.**

**George may be contacted by cell phone at 570-840-9693.**

**Other members of the PPRC are:**

**Bonny Taylor – 489-6093**

**Linda Slocum -489-3262**

**Paul Lucas Jr. – 489-8042**

**Norman Barrett – 383-4868**

**Beth Taylor – 383-2119**

**Richard Barrett – 587-1993**

**Bea Place – 876-5404**

**John Kleback – 489-5280**

**Kendra Taylor – 383-2247**

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**Welch Cookies**

We have picked Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> for our nights to bake cookies. This is a good source of income, if we have enough help. We had to cut down on taking orders in the spring, because we were not getting enough folks to help. Even if you can only give an hour in an evening, please come and give us as much time as you can. We need rollers, bakers and packers and we have all of the equipment that you need to make rolling easier for you. It's not All fun, but there is a fellowship in working together. Come and get to know each other better. Cookie orders are to be in to Bonny by September 30<sup>th</sup> and November 4<sup>th</sup>. See You There!!!

**Bradley Memorial United Methodist Women Greetings and Blessings from the newly organized United Methodist Women. In June, we held a delicious covered dish luncheon, and a delightful afternoon was enjoyed by all who attended. At this luncheon we elected officers after a brief business meeting, and led by prayer by Pastor Sharon. Officers are: President, Nancy McLain Vice President, Heather Newton Secretary, Joan Barrett Treasurer, Pat Edwards. At our July meeting, we decided to host a spaghetti dinner in October to help defray expenses incurred at Bradley during the ice and snowstorm last February.**

**In August, we decided upon our amount of pledge to the Scranton District UMW for November, and also firmed up more details for the spaghetti dinner. We will, with God's help (and all the women too) be able to complete 4 of the 5 points of the UMW star by the end of December. We are doing a fund raiser Calendar for October for the World Thank Offering, which is also a part of the Missions Star.**

**We have been housecleaning the church kitchen on as many nights as we can all be there, and the fun, fellowship, friendship, and joys of being together, and working toward building outreach of Bradley Memorial has definitely put smiles on all of our faces.**

**I would like to thank each and everyone of the women that have come out to join us in this new venture, and also to thank Norm Barrett for all of the hard work he has done for our church, and all of the undertakings that have been placed on his shoulders ( I thank God for his shoulders!) If anyone is in need of tickets for the spaghetti dinner, please contact Pat Edwards, ticket chairwoman, at 489-8735. The cutoff date for all ticket sales, will be October 1, 2007. We hope you have a wonderful Fall season, and look forward to having anyone who is currently not active in our UMW group to come out and join us for a wonderful time of fellowship, hard work, and love. See you in December with an update! Nancy McLain**

### **BRADLEY IS ALIVE AND WELL**

**Bradley Memorial UM had a major set back this past February when record snowfall accumulated on the flat roof. Shortly afterwards a large volume of water was discovered pouring through the ceiling causing serious damage. A call to our insurance agent was made and emergency contractors were recommended. A contractor was selected and arrived to remove all water damaged materials, dry out the water soaked area and then provide an estimate on damage repairs. Before repairs were made a second storm hit and it was at this time that it was discovered that it was not the roof leaking but the tower cap. Water accumulated within the block walls of the tower until it worked its way through. Our insurance carrier advised that the tower cap must be repaired before any interior repairs would be authorized.**

**Our roofing contractor, having made a thorough inspection to the flat roof which he had resurfaced in 2006, offered to work with us on repairing the tower. An estimate was provided and approved but due to poor weather conditions the cap repair was delayed. The new heavy gage aluminum cap cover was fabricated and installed recently and the interior repairs should commence shortly.**

**Numerous other structural deficiencies have been noted and will be repaired or upgraded in time. One such item was the old coal bin door. Water from melting snow was running right in through the door and flooding the old coal bin and furnace room. Richard Barrett arranged for a bid on removing the unnecessary door and this was approved. Richard assisted the contractor with this project that was completed recently.**

**There are many more projects that will be prioritized and completed. The next large project will be repainting the entire basement, walls and floor. It is expected that this will be done during the fall season.**

**Attendance at our Sunday service is averaging 20 people per service and we expect with summer coming to a close that our attendance will grow.**

**Bradley Memorial is God's church, built as a house of worship for you and yours. It can not stand alone, it needs your attendance as well as your support, both physically and financially. Please join us for Sunday service and sign up for one of the many activities available.**

**Norm Barrett  
Chairman Administrative Board**

### **A Word from Peckville's worship chair**

**It has been my honor and privilege to act as worship chair over the last 2 years. I have learned so much on different aspects of worship and at this time I am taking a class on understanding worship. I am learning so much and love sharing what I learn with whoever I can get to listen. Basically my job is to assist the Pastor and Director of music in coordinating the Sunday services so there is a**

flow to the service. Did you ever notice that most weeks the scripture, prayers, hymns, choir anthems and sermon all follow the same theme? We have even tried on special Sundays to bring some visuals into the altar area to help focus us all on the theme for the week. We try to put a lot of thought into the service to help each and everyone of us open our hearts during this time of worship to connect with the Holy Spirit, so that when we walk out of the doors on Sunday and into our perspective lives we can serve our Lord instead of just attending services on Sunday. Beth Taylor – worship chairperson.

### **Pastor's Bible Study**

**Please remember Pastor Sharon holds two Bible Study's every Tuesday. One at 8:30am and one at 7:00pm at Peckville UMC. All are welcome!!!**

### **Charge Conference**

**The Peckville/Bradley Memorial Charge will have its annual charge conference on Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Bradley Memorial UMC.**

### **What is Methodism?**

**Starting Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and continuing for 4 weeks there will be a preparatory class for Church Membership. This class is open to everyone. So if you are wondering what Methodists are all about, come and join us.**

### **Sky Lake Winter Retreat**

**Sky Lake winter retreat will be held January 11 – 13. Price for the weekend. Ages 12-adult- \$84 – children 3-11- \$42 for more info contact Ron Lucas at 383-1611.**

### **Calendar of Events**

**Sunday worship every week:**

**Bradley Memorial – 9:00am**

**Peckville – Sunday School – 9:45, worship at 11:00am.**

**Every Tuesday Bible Study's held at Peckville UMC Morning 8:30am and 7:00pm.**

**10/13 – Bradley Spaghetti dinner**

**11/3 – Roast beef dinner**

**11/4 – cookie orders in**

**11/12 – cookies made today**

**11/29 – charge conference**

You can reach the charge secretary at 383-2119 or by e-mail at [edt1157@yahoo.com](mailto:edt1157@yahoo.com) or Peckville\_Bradley\_charge @ yahoo.com.

**Pastor Sharon is in her home office mornings Monday thru Thursday The phone number at the parsonage is 489-0713 and rings in her home. She can also be reached at home anytime at 282-0104.**

The mission statement of the Peckville and Bradley Memorial Churches:  
To Glorify God by sharing  
The Gospel of Jesus Christ,  
Nurturing disciples,  
And reaching out to a world in need

The Internet or World Wide Web has become a technology that needs to be exploited by Christians in the spreading of the Gospel. Just as Gutenberg's printing press in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, radio and television in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century can use this medium to spread the Good News.

WWW.PECKVILLEUMC.ORG can be a very useful portal to the global United Methodist Church. Keep up to date on what is going on in the Peckville United Methodist Church, the Peckville and Bradley Memorial Charge, the Wyoming Conference, and the United Methodist Church in general.



#### The Web Page Contains

- Church / Charge Information:
- The church bulletin is posted weekly
- Local Church news
- Local Church calendar
- Information about our church
- As well as service times and directions for those who are looking for a church
- District and Conference Information
- Link to our Wyoming Conference
- Link to the Sky Lake Conference Center
- Coming soon links to other local churches
- The General United Methodist Church
- Link to WWW.UMC.ORG
- From here there are link to a wealth of information about the United Methodist Church and its resources.

**The Lord is my Shepherd ----- that's relationship!**  
**I shall not want ----- that's Supply!**  
**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures --- - that's Rest!**  
**He leadeth me beside the still waters ----- that's Refreshment!**  
**He restoreth my soul ----- that's Healing!**  
**He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness -- -- that's Guidance!**  
**For His name sake ----- that's Purpose!**  
**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death ----- that's Testing!**  
**I will fear no evil ----- that's Protection!**  
**For Thou art with me ----- that's Faithfulness!**  
**Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me ----- that's Discipline!**  
**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies -- that's Hope!**  
**Thou annointest my head with oil ----- that's Consecration!**  
**My cup runneth over ----- that's Abundance!**  
**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life ---- that's Blessing!**  
**And I will ! dwell in the house of the Lord ----- that's Security!**  
**Forever ----- that's Eternity!**

