



Peckville and Bradley
United Methodist Charge
Fall 2013 Newsletter

FROM THE PASTORS PEN



John 1:41 -- ANDREW FOUND HIS BROTHER PETER AND SAID TO HIM, " WE HAVE FOUND THE MESSIAH."

Some things, like hard-boiled eggs, are tough to beat. And it's hard to beat the discovery that **Andrew** made. Perhaps, as we think about it, it may have been less a discovery and more along the lines of a recognition. It maybe that one day, after thinking about it or seeing Jesus, something clicked and Andrew perceived him in a different way.

The disciple Andrew might well have seen Jesus several times around town. He maybe have heard him lecture, or saw him work the crowd. Maybe Jesus even offered a friendly, "Shalom!" to him. But however it happened, one day Andrews eyes opened and he knew Jesus was no ordinary human.

We see in the text that this was the greatest "whoopie" day in Andrew's life. Hope of a new future possessed his soul as he ran to tell Peter, "**WE HAVE THE FOUND CHRIST.**"

Most People don't know that three centuries before that, Archimedes, the legendary Greek inventor and mathematician, supposedly yelled the same thing.

He shouted, "Eureka" when he discovered a way to determine the purity of gold. Eureka, which is Greek for "I have found it!" came to Archimedes' lips with transcendent joy.

In that same spirit, if we listen carefully, we can still hear the joyous ringing in Andrew's announcement broadcast to his brother. His words snapped like a bull-whip in their intensity as well as their **expectancy**. But had he really found all of the Christ? Of course not. There was much more to be learned about Jesus. He would grow larger than Andrew could ever imagine. So, in truth, Andrew really found little of the Jesus of the gospels.

Nonetheless, in some way, we too celebrate that discovery. Each of us have found Jesus, albeit differently. For some, when we needed Christ, he was a savior, for the others a friend, for the others a brother, for others the way, the truth, the life and for others God.

Might God bless each of us at the Bradley Memorial and Peckville United Methodist Churches on the eve of the

upcoming holidays -- as we, like Andrew, continue discovering Jesus the Christ.

Rev Michael Shambora

A WORTHY JOURNEY,

Keynote address by **Bishop Jeremiah J.**

Park at the Susquehanna Annual

Conference June 2013

as report by Ed Preston in the

Susquehanna Daily Link

It was for such a time as this that God's people of the Susquehanna Conference gathered in our opening worship celebration on Thursday afternoon. Well over "A Thousand Tongues ..." joined in song as organ, bells, trumpet, and voice combined to proclaim the gospel. Powerful words and phrases filled the room as we called one another to worship, proclaiming grace, discernment, holy conferencing, and our journey of faith.

"A Worthy Journey" was the theme of Bishop Jeremiah J. Park's keynote address to the Annual Conference. Noting that the church must be in vital ministry, Bishop Park reminded the Conference that we are made for one another as he spoke of our journey as a life in Christ together on a journey of faith. One Christian, the bishop noted, is not a Christian, any more than one church is a church. Each church is part of a larger connection, he said.

"Our journey is worthy," Park said, "because it is a compelling journey. Those who have gone before us in this journey gave the best they had had to offer.

"Noting the many impressive and beautiful church sanctuaries he has been privileged to visit, Park said that they built as their statement that they were giving their best to God. It was their way of saying that their relationship with Jesus Christ was the center of their lives. If Jesus meant so much to them, he asked, why not to us?

Our journey is worthy, Park added, because God's presence makes the journey worthy. God's presence with God's people is guaranteed. This is the story of the Old Testament, the bishop said. The Old Testament is a witness to God's presence with God's people. Over and over, the Old Testament says to us, "Remember, remember, remember. Remember how I was with you all along."

We may be hard pressed, Park said, but we are not alone. God is with us. "I will be with you," Jesus said, "even unto the end of the age." Because Jesus lives, our journey is worth the taking.

Our journey is worthy, Park concluded, because it is a transforming journey. When Jesus sent his disciples into the world, he had the reign of the kingdom of God in his mind. Our journey is about God's kingdom for all people, Park said.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say "I am Christian," I'm not holier than Thou. I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace somehow.

~Author Unknown~

Blessings, Marla

Dear friends,

September usually ends the summer season, for the kids are back to school and cooler weather starts to arrive. Church activities will again start with planning meetings, choir rehearsals and cookie making.

Our church has a new gas furnace to heat the downstairs with the sanctuary heated by the older steam furnace which is in good shape. We have plans drawn up for a new powder room on the same level as the sanctuary in the Sunday School area. The old bathroom became unusable because the sewer pipes rotted away and was impossible to replace.

The storm drain in the parking lot has been replaced and is in good working condition.

The other major repairs needed are a new covering on the Sunday School roof and possibly re-shingling the sanctuary roof. We have a large church building and it takes a lot to keep it updated.

We have had a lot of deaths in our congregation in the last year and our Memorial Fund has received several donations in their memories. Our other funds (Renovation, Organ and Scholarship) are also a great way to give in memory or honor of loves ones.

We truly have a beautiful sanctuary and Fellowship room for worship and also a great kitchen and dining area for church projects. So whenever possible, please give what you are able to various funds. The future of our church will depend on them.

Sincerely, Bob
Elvidge

Sincerely, Bob

Finance Chairperson

*God is the best listener,
you don't need to shout, or
cry out loud. Because he
hears even the very silent
prayer of a sincere heart!*



Annual

Conference:

Each year in June, all clergy members and an equal number of lay members selected from the local churches attend their conference's Annual Conference session meet together to worship, fellowship, and conduct the business of the conference, which may last 3 or 4 days. During these sessions, members of the conference hear reports of past and ongoing work; adopt future goals, programs and budgets; ordain clergy members as deacons and elders. The bishop presides over these meetings.

The meetings called sessions are always held within the context of worship. This is to keep all participants mindful that we are not just conducting business, but are caretakers and witnesses to Christ's Church here on earth.

Annual Conference is the culmination of work done by various committees and individuals since the previous conference. A hefty package of reports, agenda, resolutions and nominations are received by Lay and Clergy members about 3 weeks before the annual conference dates. These items are considered and voted on during the days and evenings of conference.

As much as annual conference is for doing the needful business of the church it is also a time for renewal, learning, worship, and fellowship. There is something very moving and uplifting worshipping with 2,000 sisters and brothers. There are displays in one gymnasium from the many Boards and Agencies of the United Methodist Church that show our denomination's commitment a

world in need. Over this past year mission work has been done in our own back yard in Luzern and Wyoming counties as well across the nation and the world. Fulfilling John Wesley's statement "the world is my parish". We need to be always mindful of what we are. Methodism was born out of a need for the church to extend out of the church building into the community, to be with the prisoner, the hungry, the homeless, and the marginalized.

Annual conference brings to the forefront that we are indeed a connectional church. Many of us joke about the various committees and agencies of the United Methodist Church, but what is well known among governments, philanthropic organizations, and other denominations it that if you need something to be done, ask the United Methodists to do it.

On September 29 during both worship services I'll be leading worship with an Annual Conference theme.

Tom Taylor
Lay Member to the Susquehanna Annual
Conference





ROAST BEEF DINNER

DRIVE THROUGH: Peckville's annual roast beef dinner will be held on Saturday, November 2nd, from 4:00 to 5:30pm. Pre-reserve tickets \$10 adult and \$5 children.

Limited tickets at the door \$12 adult and \$6 children. For information please call Bonny 489-6093 or Maureen 489-8042.

Help will be needed. If you will make a dessert, please call Fran 489-0301 or Maureen at 489-8042

HOAGIE SALE

It's time to re-start our Hoagie Sale. We have two dates scheduled for this year. October 5th and December 7th. Please place your order with Bob Elvidge 903-3108 or Paul Lucas 489-8042

WELSH COOKIES

We will be starting up our Welsh cookies again this year on Mondays beginning October 14th. Price of the cookies this year will be \$4.50.

HELP IS NEEDED!!!!

PUMC FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

We are so pleased that our food and fellowship has been a huge success and we will continue this the 3rd Sunday of every month. So mark your calendars now and plan on staying after worship from some great good and even greater fellowship!!

*As you waste your breath
complaining about life, someone
out there is
breathing their last.*

Appreciate what you have.

*Be thankful and stop
complaining*

*Live more, complain less. Have
more smiles, less stress. Less
hate, become more blessed!*

BIBLE STUDY

We have a weekly bible study every Tuesday evening at 7pm, downstairs at the PUMC. We would love for you to come join us!! The book we will be studying, **Yes Lord I Have Sinned, But I Have Several Excellent Excuses by James W. Moore.** We meet for one hour.

SKY LAKE WINTER RETREAT

Soon it will be time again to take our retreat at Sky Lake. Lots of fun and activities.

Date Jan 31st thru Feb 2nd.

Adults 12 to 100,

Children 3 to 11,

Friday arrival and Sunday departure.

PUMC ON THE WEB!

www.peckvilleumc.org can keep you up to date on what is going on in the Peckville and Bradley United Methodist Churches.



FACEBOOK

There is much to say about Facebook. If you use it in a positive manner, people can be kept in-the-know of daily entries on our extended family and friends that we would seem to never keep in touch with on a daily basis. PUMC is on Facebook. Please like our page so can see photos and church activities as they arise.



S'MORES' FOR THE BREAD BASKET OF NEPA

A S'more party will be held on the grounds of the United Methodist Church at 732 Main St., Peckville on Sunday, Sept.29th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM to benefit the Bread Basket of Northeastern PA.***Non perishable items and/or monetary donations will help the food pantries in our area. All are welcome to enjoy this time together for a good cause and we will need HELP. Join us for a cup of coffee or cocoa. For more info contact Tom or Bonny Taylor.





Rev. Shambora may
be reached at
570-371-8123

Please send via email or call with a message to Marla as to who may need to be in our community of prayer and for announcements needed for the bulletin by Wednesday evening. Thank you.

Email-
secretary@peckvilleumc.org

Phone: **876-5357** or **362-4260**



CALANDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Every Sunday | 9am Bradley
worship
11am Peckville
worship
9:45 Sun School |
| Every Tuesday | Bible study -
7pm PUMC |
| Every Thursday | Choir practice
6:45pm |
| 9/25 | SPRC meeting |
| 9/29 | S'mores at PUMC |
| 10/6 | Cookie orders to be in |
| 10/14 | Welsh cookies |
| 10/20 | Food and Fellowship |
| 11/2 | Roast Beef dinner |
| 11/3 | Cookie orders to be in |
| 11/7 | Adm Board meeting |
| 11/4 | Welsh Cookies |
| 11/17 | Food and Fellowship |
| 12/15 | Food and Fellowship |
| 21/21 | Caroling |
| 12/22 | Christmas Cantata |

My teacher pointed me
with his ruler and said:
At the end of this
ruler there's an
idiot.".....] got
detention
after asking
"which end?"