

Peckville and Bradley Memorial United Methodist Charge Spring 2007 News Letter

From The Pastors' Pen

Greetings in His name,

The Christian year and its seasons offer us an opportunity to accompany Jesus on His life journey. There is something comforting about being on the journey together. We now embark on our Lenten pilgrimage that calls us to deep moments of reflection, prayer and seeking. In this time of preparation for the glory of Easter, we will together join Jesus on the road to Jerusalem, and hear the hosannas of the welcoming shouts lining the way. We will climb the steps to the Temple, and be present as Jesus asks us to remember Him in the body and blood of the last supper. At the gates of Gethsemane, at the trial that follows, and at the foot of the cross, we are with Jesus, to the very end. And on Easter, we will rush to be with the disciples, celebrating the risen Christ among us.

A soldier approached the teacher. "I have mastered all of the martial arts," he said calmly. "I have risen to the highest rank possible for a man of my training. I now wish to learn about God. Can you help me?"

The teacher smiled and invited the man to sit at the table. "Let us have a cup of tea, he said, before we talk further." After the soldiersat, the teacher began to pour tea into the man's cup. He filled the cup and kept on pouring until the tea was running over the table onto the floor. The soldier watched dumbfounded until he could no longer be silent. "Stop! It is full! The cup will not hold more tea!"

Placing the teapot on the table, the teacher addressed the soldier. "You are so full of yourself that there is no room for God. It is not possible for you to learn about God until you empty yourself."

The above traditional Japanese story is most appropriate for the Lenten season. For better or worse, Christianity is a light that shines on the self, so that we can turn inward and observe that self and thereby reflect on the motives that drive the self. In the hustle and bustle of our life, we have to find space and time to reflect. This reflection is not a gloomy way of thinking about missed opportunities and past failures. It is a reflection that invites the Holy Spirit to rebuild our character in Jesus. The history of the word Lent means lengthening of daylight as we enter the season

of Spring. Accordingly, can we decrease so God may increase? That is our Lenten prayer.

May God continue to bless you,
Pastor Sharon and Fred

METHODISTS

We make fun of Methodists for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them.

If you were to ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Methodistless place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the boat ashore," they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Methodists, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

LENTEN SERVICES

February 21 – Peckville United Methodist Church

February 28 – St. Luke's Lutheran, Archbald

March 7 – Blakely Baptist Church

March 14 – St. Patrick's Church, Olyphant

March 21 – United Presbyterian – place to be announced

March 28th – Blakely Primitive Methodist Church
(ALL SERVICES ARE AT 7:00P.M.)

METHODISTS

Many Methodists are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that persons rib cage.

It's natural for Methodists to sing in harmony. We are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all 200 of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

GRADUATES

If anyone knows of college or high school students who will be graduating in the spring, please let Pastor Sharon know. Thank You.

Scranton District Praise Day

Sunday, April 29, 2007....at 4:00pm

at Clarks Summit UMC

Preacher: The Rev. Sarah Miller

Praise Choir made up of singers from all over the district led by Mr. John Maza

Choir Rehearsals: Sunday April 15th from 2:00 to 3:45 and Sunday, April 29th from 2:00 to 3:30

Refreshments: All churches are asked to bring a plate of cookies

In addition: Churches are asked to bring things that represent their church heritage. (Photos, old Communion sets, old membership books, etc.)

Child care will be available for the Praise Day service as well as for both rehearsals.

Hope to see you all there!!!!

WORD OF APPRECIATION

February 3, 2007

To the Members and Friends and Pastor of the Peckville United Methodist Church on the occasion of the death of Dorothy Fendick Warring. -

Dear Friends,

As I left the nursing home on the day of my Mom's death, I drove through Peckville on the way home. As I did, I thought: "I no longer have any tie or connection to Peckville. It was a sad thought as I have always cherished the memories I have of all of the people of my "home town".

And then, on the day of Mom's funeral in your church, as I felt the warmth, care, cooperation and love of all of you, I realized: "I will always have a tie and connection to Peckville, the church, and to all of you. With you I have experienced so many beginnings and endings; because of you my life is better and more complete, and because of you on that day, my grief and that of my family was lessened. Thank you!

The Service of Resurrection for my Mom was a wonderful celebration of Dorothy. So many of my friends not acquainted with Peckville, commented that the whole experience that day was a testament of faith and love.

My favorite church window in the whole world has always been the picture in your sanctuary of Jesus and the children. On the day when we celebrated my Mom's life, the Peckville Church was Jesus, and my family and I were the children. Thank you very much; and, may God bless you as richly as you have blessed my whole life.

Joy and peace,

Rees Warring

METHODISTS

I do believe this: People, these Methodists, who love to sing in four-part harmony, are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you are dying, they will comfort you. If you are lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you are hungry, they'll give you tuna salad! (Isn't that wonderful?)

Methodist believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud!!

Scranton District Lay Academy

Spring lay Speaking is set for Friday, April 20 – Saturday April 21&28 at the Central UMC, Honesdale. For more info please see enclosed brochure.

METHODISTS

Methodists like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than 4 stanzas. (Yep!)

Methodists believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there. (That's about right!)

EASTER MEMORIALS

Peckville's Easter Memorials and honoriums should be in by Sunday April 1(Palm Sunday). Gifts and information should be given to the following people.

Memorial Fund – Bill Llewellyn

Organ & Renovation – George Kinback Jr.

Warring-Fendick Scholarship Fund – George Kinback Jr.

Music Fund – Bonny Taylor

Flowers – Bob Elvidge or Bonny Taylor

(To insure your memorial or honoriums will be in the booklet please have them in by the 1st. This will be a great help for the secretary. Thank you.)

EASTER BREAKFAST

Reservations for Easter breakfast following the sunrise service (6:30am) should be in to Bonny Taylor (489-6093) by April 1(Palm Sunday).

METHODISTS

Methodists feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the fellowship hall.

Methodists are willing to spend u to one dollar for a meal at church. (Big spenders or penny-pinchers!)

TENEBRAE SERVICE AT PECKVILLE

The Tenebrae Service and Holy Communion will be Maundy Thursday April 5 at 7:30p.m. at the Peckville UMC.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE'S

The Good Friday Service will be held on Friday April 8 at 7:00p.m. at the Bradley Memorial UMC .

There will also be services at the Blakely Baptist church from 12:00 noon until 3:00p.m.

METHODISTS

Methodists usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.

Methodists believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.

EVENING OF MUSIC

The Peckville Choir will present their annual Evening of Music on Sunday evening April 22 at 7:00p.m.

WESLEY VILLAGE

Brunch and Lunch will be served at Wesley Village on Sunday, April 15 from 11:30am to 2:00pm.

METHODISTS

Methodists think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.(Or, they try to cover the sanctuary to greet EVERYONE there!)

Methodists drink coffee as if it were the third sacrament.

Methodists still serve jello in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna noodle casserole adds too much color.

WELSH COOKIES

Welsh cookies will be made on Monday March 12^h, orders should be in By Sunday March 4th, and on Monday April 16th with orders in by Sunday April 8^h
Your help is ALWAYS needed.

PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

Breakfast to benefit mission team will be held on February 24. 8:00am to 11:00am. Donation \$5.00. See Ron Lucas for tickets. (383-1611)

METHODISTS

Methodists believe its ok to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves to seriously. (It makes life so much more pleasant, doesn't it?)

You know you are Methodist when: its 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.

Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.

You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.

When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, "May the force be with you," and you respond, "and also with you."

And lastly, it takes them 10 minutes to say good-bye! (How True!!)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bible study at PUMC every Tuesday at 7:00pm
Lenten services every Wednesday during Lent at 7:00pm – see schedule

Choir Rehearsal at Peckville every Thursday at 6:45pm.

Choir rehearsal at Bradley Memorial every Sunday following the morning worship

2/21 – Ash Wednesday Service at Peckville UMC at 7:00pm

2/24 – Pancake and Sausage Breakfast at Peckville

3/1 – Peckville Administrative council – 8:00pm

3/4– Please place cookie orders with Paul Lucas. For cookie sale on March 12.

2/28 – Lenten service at St. Luke's Lutheran Church at 7:00pm

3/12 – Welsh cookies made at Peckville (YOUR HELP IS NEEDED)

3/7 – Lenten service at Blakely Baptist church, Blakely at 7:00pm.

3/14 – Lenten service at St. Patrick's church, Olyphant at 7:00pm.

3/21– Lenten service at First United Presbyterian church, Olyphant at 7:00pm.

3/28 – Lenten service at the Blakely Primitive Methodist Church, Blakely at 7:00pm

4/1 – Palm Sunday – Breakfast reservations in and Memorials in today.

4/5 – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service at the Peckville UMC at 7:30pm

4/6 – Good Friday Tenebrae service at Bradley Memorial UMC at 7:00pm

4/6 – Good Friday services at the Blakely Baptist church noon to 3:00pm

4/8 – Easter Sunday – Sunrise service at 6:30am, Bradley worship at 9:00am, Peckville Sunday school at 9:45am and Peckville service at 11:00am

4/8 – cookie orders into Bonny Taylor for cookies made 4/16.

4/16 – cookies made today (YOUR HELP IS NEEDED)

4/22 – Peckville Choir 46th Evening of Music at 7:00pm

4/15 – Lunch & Brunch at Wesley village

4/29 – District Praise Day at Clarke Summit UMC at 4:00pm.

TO HERE GOD'S VOICE TURN DOWN THE WORLD'S VOLUME.

AN EASTER PRAYER

O God of Easter,
God of resurrection power,
Bring heavenly life to our
Earthbound souls;
Thou, who did'st call Lazarus forth
From his tomb,
Call us forth from dead works, and let our
hearts be aglow
With immortal glory and power.
Call us out of the tomb of hollow profession,
Of cold creeds, and wordy ritual,
And let Thy life abundant permeate and
Saturate our stagnant souls.
Bring joy where there is heaviness of heart;
Bring peace where there is confusion;
Bring love where there is bitterness;
And may we henceforth live in
The glorious glow of The Life
Which that first Easter poured
Forth upon a world of darkness.
And may we always be mindful of the
Source of this life-giving power,
And come to Thee regularly to be fulfilled.
In the Savior's name. Amen.
Author Unknown

This time of year renews our hope in all God
has ahead, For we were blessed eternally
when Christ rose from the dead.
So may your trust in Him remain constant,
strong and true,
For He is working out His best as He lives
His life in you.

Because the hospitals no longer call a pastor
because it interferes with the patient's right to
privacy, the pastor asks that the family of anyone in
the hospital please call her. It will be the only way
she will know. Thank You.

Pastor Sharon is in her home office Monday thru
Thursday 10:00am to 1:00pm. The phone number
is 489-0713. She can also be reached at home
anytime at 282-0104.

You may reach the charge secretary (Beth Taylor)
at 383-2119, edt1157@yahoo.com or
[Peckville Bradley charge@yahoo.com](mailto:Peckville_Bradley_charge@yahoo.com)

The Peckville United Methodist Church is
now on the World Wide Web at
www.peckvilleumc.org with updates made
weekly.

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.

**FAITH IN CHRIST IS NOT JUST A SINGLE
STEP--- IT'S A LIFELONG WALK WITH HIM.**

**IF WE COULD MERIT OUR OWN SALVATION,
JESUS WOULD NOT HAVE DIED TO PROVIDE
IT.**

HE RESTS WELL WHO RESTS IN JESUS.