

The Peckville and Bradley Memorial United Methodist Churches

Fall 2014 Newsletter

From the Pastor:

In the city of Belfast, infamous for bloodshed, a priest, minister, and mayor get into a wrangle. Engaged in a heated theological debate, they argue as to the best way to bring peace to Ireland, but the meeting just gets out of control.

Just then an angel appears with an announcement, "Each of you gets one wish for peace."

The angry priest shouts, "Let every Protestant disappear from the island and then we'll have peace."

The angry minister roared, "Let, every Catholic disappear from scared Irish soil and belligerency will end."

But the mayor stood like a park statue and said nothing. "Your request sir?" insisted the angel. But the mayor again said nothing. Exasperated, the angel ordered, "Do you have a wish for peace in Ireland?"

The mayor said, slowly, "No sir, I have no wish. Just fulfill the wishes of these two gentlemen and I'll be happy."

Translated: With the Catholics and Protestants booted out of Ireland the racket would end.

The identical theme is struck in Genesis, only it's no joke. A world's in revolt here, not just an island. General rowdiness and miscellaneous irresponsibility is as common as bread and butter. God is so outraged over brazen faced people earthly perpetrators that God says the same thing as the reverends, only worse. "I'm blotting from the world all human being I have created. I'm sorry I made them." (Gen. 6:7)

Translated: With earthly life annihilated, gone will be the pandemonium.

But listen, way underneath the surface of this verse, there bubbles and boils, like a Yellowstone geyser, the pulse of a heartsick God in divine upheaval. God is sorry for calling life into existence. The reason is simple. While God's flowers, skies, trees, and tiny bumble bees have performed 100percent as planned, humans haven't.

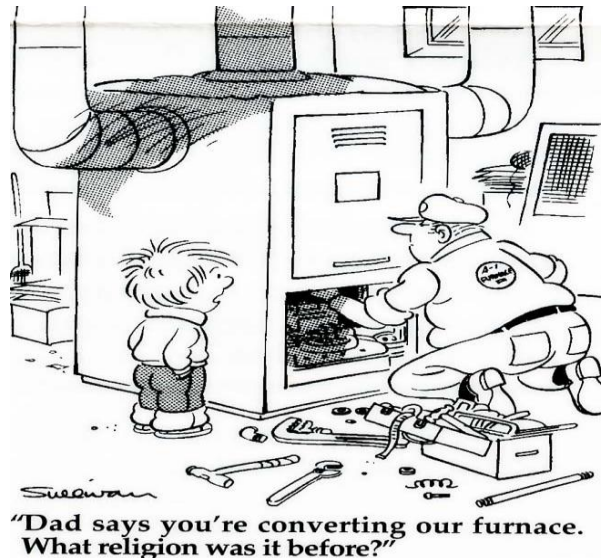
People have failed to satisfy even the lower end of expectations of God. They've just not spurned God's ideals, they've spurned God's elemental decencies of self-restraint, politeness, humanness.

So sweeping is this alienation, to quote, "The imaginations of people's thoughts were evil continually." (Gen 6:5)

That's why God experiences emotions, as far as we know, never before felt, including disappointment and need for reflection. To put in human language, God wanted to ring their necks and send a global flood.

But a mature understanding goes beyond such mythology; a deeper insight is that of God watching humans extraordinarily more vile than Noah's day. They are killing His Son on Calvary, and in the faces of fiendish imaginations God hears Jesus say. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Here, Jesus pleads for human life instead of global obliteration.

Rev. Mike Shambora



Please don't pray for rain if you're going to complain about the mud.



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A Word from the Finance Chair

It's that time of year again. Summer is over and the kids are back to school. Several church committees are starting to plan for the 2015 church year. This year our annual charge conference will be held in September, so all the financial reports and officers have to be approved.

The usual church inspection for repairs and other needs will be addressed. The roof and belfry will be inspected and sealed if needed. The roof over the Sunday School area was covered last year. Plans were approved and work will begin soon begin on the new restroom on the sanctuary level next to the elevator.

We continue to serve the community with a free lunch and fellowship on the 4th Saturday of each month.

As with our homes, the needs of the church building continue each year. Please support all the work needed as you are able.

Most of all please attend our worship service on Sunday morning and listen to an inspiring sermon and music performed by our choir and soloists.

Thank you for your continued gifts and services.

Respectfully Yours,
Bob Elvidge
Finance Chair



Bulletin Bloopers:

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict



Women's Luncheon: Each member bring a sandwich.

Polly Phillips will give the medication.



Faith For A Generation Such As This

Only 25 percent of young adults (those 19-35 years) are engaged in the church. Why is this? Why are young adults hesitant about church and/or faith? Why do those that come, come? In the book "You Lost Me", by David Kinnaman and Barna Group, proposes six reasons millennials disconnect from church and/or faith.

- **Overprotective:** For a generation that values entrepreneurs, innovators, and starters, "the church is seen as a creativity killer where risk taking and being involved in culture are anathema."
- **Shallow:** "The most common perception of churches is that they are boring. Easy platitudes, proof texting, and formulaic slogans have anesthetized many young adults, leaving them with no idea of the gravity and power of following Christ. [. . .] the Christianity they received does not give them a sense of calling."
- **Anti-Science:** "Many young Christians have come to the conclusion that faith and science are incompatible. [. . .] what's more, science seems accessible in a way that the church does not; science appears to welcome questions and skepticism, while matters of faith seem impenetrable."
- **Repressive:** "Religious rules – particularly sexual mores – feel stifling to the individualistic mindset of young adults."
- **Exclusive:** "They have been shaped by a culture that esteems open-mindedness, tolerance, and acceptance."
- **Doubtless:** Young Christians (and former Christians too) say the church is not a place that allows them to express doubts. They do not feel safe admitting that faith doesn't always make sense.

This year at annual conference there was a panel discussion about the relationship or lack of it between young adults and the church. The panel was made up of 18 to 35 year olds. Some were laity and some were pastors. *Cont page 3*

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For generations that are more comfortable with unresolved questions, tenaciously creative, and passionate to change the world, many young adults long for a place of love and support, open dialogue, and motivating expectations.

Millennial pastors identified — through personal experience — several hurdles to faith in this generation. One identified a disconnect in the ways some generations are raised (i.e. with creative engagement, encouragement for individuality, motivation for success) but encounter an often closed attitude in churches. Young adults sometimes feel forgotten ... yet God is in a lot more than the things deemed acceptable. In a time when generation gaps appear to be so wide, important ways forward include authentic community, real relationships, and willingness to share stories one to another. And while words are needful, the truth is that actions are also critical. One person from the panel reinforced that 30 percent of young adults disengage after seeing how others are treated by the church. “Christ-like outreach is everyone’s responsibility”

In a note of hope, the young adult experience consistently reinforced that many young adults remain in our churches. A list of reasons that young adults are still engaged in the church includes positive mentoring, social activism, personal conviction, community, and many others. Certainly not the least reason is the abiding hope found through faith in Jesus Christ, a hope that catalyzes discipleship for the transformation of the world.

This article appeared in the daily reports from conference “The Link”, but has been edited for this newsletter by - Tom G Taylor.

Bulletin Bloopers:

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.



Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."



"Our growth consultant thinks the term church sounds outdated."

**The United Methodist Church today:
A historical perspective**

In listening to the young adult panel discussion at Annual Conference some parallels to Methodism and the early church for that matter came to mind. John Wesley saw the Anglican Church as disconnected from the people it was suppose to serve, and worship that was rote and empty. Not in the liturgy, for Wesley remained an Anglican priest until death, but in that liturgy was not put to action, reaching the people in need. Preaching in the open air, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, the imprisoned, championing the cause for the poor, and speaking up against child labor, openly inviting the marginalized to know Jesus, this was the radical Christianity that Wesley envisioned and practiced.

Has the UMC becomes as the Anglican Church in Wesley’s time? Does our worship call us to action; do we only want the “right” people to attend our services. Have we unknowingly given the un-church or the estranged members the impression that we are a Country Club for saints, rather than a hospital for sinners?

In these times of declining attendance, increasing expenses, and lower church income how can we fulfill the mission of the church? In a country club membership has its privileges, but in a church, membership has its responsibilities.

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When we joined the church at our confirmation we promised to always be faithful to the church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, our service and witness. This isn't about money it is about commitment. From time each of us need to ask ourselves. How often do we pray for the church? How often do we attend church? Have we used our gifts (talent) lately? Have we served in the name of our Lord from time to time? Is our life a witness for Jesus?

Analogy time: Say there was a fire department that raised money all year long just to "keep its doors open" but never answered fire calls. The public would not stand for it and its support would dwindle. Because it is not doing what fire departments are suppose to do, which is fight fires and aid people in danger. Is that how the general population sees the church?

There is no magic bullet, no quick formula to revitalize the church. Every community is different. What works for one may not work for another. The church has changed over the past 2000 years. In times like these (as before) the church will change, some may fail and leave fertile ground for another. But to do the same thing and expect different results is madness. The story we tell will be the same, but how it is told will change.

Tom G Taylor



Thank You to the congregations of Peckville/Bradley Memorial UMC

"3 I thank my God for you every time I think of you; 4 and every time I pray for you all, I pray with joy 5 because of the way in which you have helped me in the work of the gospel from the very first day until now. 6 And so I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus. 7 You are always in my heart! And so it is only right for me to feel as I do about you. For you have all shared with me in this privilege that God has given me..... (Philippians 1: 3-7)"

How do I begin to say thank you for all the prayers, support, gifts and love I have not only received over the last 2 years but over the last 40 years at least. Tom and I have been married 37 but in reality I have been a member of Peckville UMC long before we were married.

You have all watched as we raised two wonderful children, both who have grown into strong wonderful adults with wonderful spouses and families of their own. You have prayed me through my breast cancer and so much more, we have laughed, loved, cried, mourned loved ones, rejoiced over weddings and births and through it all we have given all the glory to God lifting Him in praise and worship!

In this life we never know where God will call us to serve and work for Him loving all His people. If you had told me ten years ago that I would be called to be a licensed local pastor I probably would have laughed at you. But here I am and I have never been so at peace and filled with joy!

So my brothers and sisters again I say thank you, thank you, thank you for your prayers, support, gifts and love!! I do thank God for each of you and every time I pray for you all I do it with Joy!

Grace, peace, blessings and love, Beth

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PUMC Activity since the Fall 2013 newsletter:

Peckville UMC has attempted to continue and expand its presents in the community. Last fall we held the S'mores for the Food Basket of NEPA and the response from the community was encouraging. We are planning this again for Sept 28th 2014.

In January of 2014 we started a community free lunch which we have since named "The Red Door Café". This has been a success in that, connections and friendships have been made and as many as 19 persons have attended each month. Conversations are as satisfying as the meal.

Hoagie sales continue to exclusively fund missions of the church near and far.

Christmas Caroling at the local nursing homes continues as it has for over 40 years and we may expand this ministry this season.

The annual church Sky Lake retreat continues to be refreshing respite in winter and as always is attended by several of our extended church family. This year we are holding a Pasta Dinner to help defray the cost in hopes that even more persons can attend.

As always please let Program Chair Tom G Taylor know of any ideas you may have, whether mission related, social, or educational that may be able to enhance our Christian life together and serve the community.

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Please send us our email address or if you email or mailing address has changed let us know. Email helps keeps the cost of producing a newsletter down and also enables quick communications when needed.

All out bound charge wide email is sent as a "blind copy" to ensure your privacy. Send email or mailing addresses to secretary@peckvilleumc.org

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People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

How many Christians does it take to change a light bulb?

Charismatic: Only 1

Hands are already in the air.

Pentecostal: 10

One to change the bulb, and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.

Presbyterians: none

Lights will go on and off at predestined times.

Roman Catholic: none

Candles only.

Baptists: At least 15

One to change the light bulb, and three committees to approve the change and decide who brings the potato salad and fried chicken.

Episcopalians: 3

One to call the electrician, one to mix the drinks and one to talk about how much better the old one was.

Mormons: 5

One man to change the bulb, and four wives to tell him how to do it.

Methodist: Undetermined

Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely Out, you are loved. You can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. Church-wide lighting service is planned for Sunday. Bring bulb of your choice and a covered dish.

Nazarene: 6

One woman to replace the bulb while five men review church lighting policy.

Lutherans: none

Lutherans don't believe in change.

Amish:

What's a light bulb?

Oct. 23rd Chi Rho in Concert

The Clergy Choir of the
Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Church

Time: 7 pm

Place: Lakeland High School, 1355 Lakeland
Drive, Scott Township, PA 18446

Sponsored by the churches of the SUSUMC S/WB
Carbondale Cluster Group

Free Admission - Free Will Offering Taken

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Peckville UMC Calendar of Activities

- Sept. 21 Food & Fellowship
27 Red Door Cafe free lunch at noon.
28 S'more Party for local food bank 5 to 7
29 Annual Church Conference
- Oct. 4 Hoagies
5 World Communion Sunday
11 Pasta Dinner
13 Welsh Cookies
18 Bonny & Bud Taylor 60th Ann. at PUMC
19 Laity Sunday and Food & Fellowship
25 Red Door Cafe free lunch at noon
- Nov. 2 Day Light Saving Time ends
6 Ad Board at 8
10 Welsh Cookies
15 Takeout Beef Dinner
16 Food & fellowship
22 Red Door Cafe free lunch at noon
26 Thanksgiving Eve Service
30 First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 20 Caroling at Health Care
21 Cantata followed by Food & Fellowship
27 Red Door Cafe free lunch at noon
- Jan. 30 Annual Sky Lake Winter Retreat

Annual Sky Lake Winter Retreat

The next annual winter retreat is scheduled for Friday Jan. 30 to Sunday Feb.1

All are welcome to join us for the weekend. Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center is located about one hour and fifteen minutes north off of route 17 near Winsor NY.

Friday evening you will find the group roasting hotdogs and marshmallows at the large fireplace. Our prepared meals will be served in another building a very short walk from our lodging.

The cost for the weekend has yet to be determined as we will be running a **pasta dinner** to help defray the cost in hope of enabling more people to attend the retreat.

Please supply your own shower necessities and bedding. Sleeping bags are easiest. Sleep arrangements are somewhat dormitory style.

Three meals a day are provided from the dining hall. Games and music are impromptu and usually ongoing. Enjoy fellowship, singing, or the peace that getting away for awhile can bring. Depending on the weather outdoor activities can include ice-skating, sleigh riding, winter walks, or cross-country skiing (if you have skis).

We will be sending out more information as to cost and registration soon.

Peckville UMC on the Web

www.peckvilleumc.org



www.facebook.com/PeckvilleUMC



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One of the Missions of the Susquehanna Annual Conference

Mission Central is the mission warehouse affiliate of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. Along with our satellite operations called "HUBS", we respond to natural and man-made disasters with relief supplies and supply humanitarian goods and logistical services to hundreds of different ministry and social service agencies. Since our beginning in June 2002, Mission Central has hosted tens of thousands of volunteers who come in service to "connect God's resources with human need." With our volunteers, we process disaster response materials, "relief kits" for use around the world, provide all types of needed supplies for local and national ministries, and assist many projects that are sending God's love, locally, nationally, and around the world.

Bonny and Bud Taylor will soon be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary!

Our family would love for all of you to be there to join in the celebration.

Saturday, October 18 at 4:00pm - 7:00pm at the Peckville United Methodist Church.

The party will be an open house style.

Please RSVP please

Kendra 570-209-3079 or Sarah 570-550-5976

In true Bonny and Bud fashion we stress NO GIFTS PLEASE!

But if you insist; they will be putting others first (as always) and taking any donations the day of the party for "Nothing But Nets". This is a program through UMCOR which purchases nets to prevent malaria deaths in Africa by distributing bed nets, the most cost-effective, life saving-life saving solution.

More information of this cause can be found here.

<http://www.umcor.org/Search-for-Projects/Projects/982015>

On-Line Informational Resources



Print version

susquehanna LINK

Published bi-monthly
Digest-style of content, full content on web



Web pageable version

<http://www.susumc.org/index.php/communications/news/susquehanna-link>

<http://susquehannalink.blogspot.com/>

Susquehanna Xpress is a new communications tool from Connectional Ministries of the Susquehanna Conference.

<http://www.susumc.org/index.php/communications/media/susquehanna-xpress>



susquehanna conference Lay Ministry



<http://susumc.org/layministry/>