

**Peckville and Bradley Memorial United Methodist Charge
Fall 2012 News Letter**

From The Pastors' Pen

"He first findeth his own brother, Simon, and saith unto him, "We have found the Messiah which (being interpreted) is the Christ." John 1:42

Some things, like hard boiled eggs, are tough to beat. And the toughest thing to beat was the superlative discovery Andrew made. Perhaps, as we think about it, it may have been less a discovery and more along the lines of preternatural recognition. The disciple Andrew might well have seen Jesus several times around town. He may have said "Shalom!" to him. But one day God saw to it that Andrew's cognition clicked-in and what an eye-opener it was for the gentleman. For the first time, listen to me, "Andrew divined," and this recognition of Jesus as the Son of God must have been like the gaze of food to the starving, water to the famished, or a gorgeous palm-tree-lined city to the scared and beleaguered.

Yes, it was the greatest "whoopie" day in Andrew's life when he found Jesus. Hope of a new future seems to have possessed his soul and worded itself in this highest and most prophetic of human utterances, "we have found the Christ."

We can still, if we listen carefully, hear the joyous ringing in Andrew's brief recap to his brother Peter. His words, literally, snap like a bullwhip in their intensity as well as their expectancy, for Andrew was to find more and more of who Christ was.

It is in some such throbbing hopefulness that I celebrate, along with you, the manifestation of the Son of God. And my wish for us is that amidst the clutter of the Life, we are able to find Christ for ourselves and share in that joyful moment that antedates our own by twenty-one centuries.

.....Rev. Michael Shambora

Lord, make me humble, and when I am humble, don't let me know it.

Sunday School Resumes

Peckville's Sunday School has resumed! Please remember that Sunday School starts at **9:45a.m.** It has been decided that for now the children's Sunday school will meet twice a month on the 1st Sunday(communion

Sunday) and on the third Sunday(food and fellowship Sunday). Thank You.

The Scriptures are shallow enough for a babe to come and drink without fear of drowning, and deep enough for theologians to swim in without ever reaching the bottom. -St. Jerome

"A New Song"

Many prefer old songs to new ones. Sometimes we feel uncomfortable singing songs we don't know well. Familiar songs make us feel safe, but new ones feel awkward about making a mistake. But new songs also give us new ways to praise God. The Psalms encourage us to sing "a new song" to God, to find new ways to "Declare His glory" because "great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised". (Psalm 96:1,3,4)

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

Fall is approaching and so have choir rehearsals! Rehearsals have begun on Thursdays at 6:45pm.

We have 10 new anthems to begin rehearsing and we'll also be starting a new Christmas Cantata in about a month. So it's time for anyone from 7th grade up who may have interested in joining the choir !! We have the music and the chairs that need to be filled!! If interested, talk to any of the choir members, Bonny or just show up on Thursday evenings!! See you there!!

*"Life is like a piano, the white keys represent happiness and the black keys show sadness. But as you go through life's journey, remember that the black keys also create music." –
Wisdom Quotes*

Support Music Ministry

The price of music has gone up, just like everything else has. If you would like to help with the cost of an anthem, I'd be happy to show you some of our new music. There may be something there that would touch your heart and you may want to give it in honor or in memory of someone. The cost per anthem is \$40.00 to provide an anthem for each Sunday Service. We may be able to combine two memorials for an anthem, if that is favorable for someone. The Christmas Cantata books, cd and rehearsal cd's have already been given in memorial of loved ones and we are very grateful for their generosity. The new cantata is called "A Celebration of Carols" and includes many of your favorites.

The Choir is still selling brooms to support the music ministry at \$12 each. If you have used these brooms, you know how lightweight and useful that they are.

The choir tries to support itself without using local church funds and we appreciate all the help that we can get. The choir thanks you for being supportive, so that we can praise our God with the music ministry each and every Sunday. – Bonny Taylor

Roast Beef Dinner

Peckville's annual EAT IN ONLY roast beef dinner will be held on Saturday, November 3rd from 4:30 to 6:00P.M. Pre-reserve tickets \$10 – Adult and \$5 – Child.

Limited tickets at the door -\$12 adult and \$6 – child

For information please call 489-6093 or 489-8042.

Help will be needed for the dining room.

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

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We can do no great things; only small things with great love. -Mother Teresa

Report from the Peckville Finance chairperson

Here we are again entering September, the kids are starting a new year at school and most assuredly the nights will become cooler, it certainly was a hot and humid summer and most vacations are over. Our church will be starting to hold meetings and planning for the fall schedule. Choir practice has resumed and all are welcome to join. The Sunday school men's class will resume after Labor day and classes will be available for our young people.

Our morning worship service is getting back to good attendance and every third Sunday of the month we have food and fellowship.

Our trustees have met and discussed some of the needs within and outside our church. The water drain in the parking lot is being cleaned and new piping and a stone French drain is being constructed. In the near future the Sunday school area roof will need a new covering . We do have a beautiful church including the sanctuary, the fellowship room downstairs, a large kitchen and spacious dining area. We ask for your prayers and service and continued support with all the projects with our church building.

God Bless, Sincerely, Bob Elvidge

Knowing Scripture is of little benefit until it is practiced.

Charge Conference

We are scheduled for our annual charge conference on Sunday Evening, December 2, at the Dunmore UMC. Please plan on attending.

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Peckville Welch Cookies

If we have enough help to make cookies this year, the schedule will be Mondays, October 8, November 12, January 14, February 11, March 11 and April 8. Price of cookies this year will be \$4.50.

The faith in our hearts should always be visible in our lives.

Bradley Memorial – Shoe box mission

Bradley memorial will be supporting the Shoe Box Mission (Red Bird Mission) for adults in the hills of Kentucky. Items needed are body soap, deodorant, shampoo, hand lotion, toothbrush and paste, razors, shaving cream, nail care kit, hair brush and comb, emergency candles, socks, work gloves, wash cloths and hand towels. A Christmas card or note of cheer can be included.

All items can be delivered to the church nursery. A packing party will be set up at the end of the collection period which is Sunday, November 18th.

It is expected that the boxes will be delivered to Kentucky around December 1.

Change your prayers sometimes. Wake up in the morning and say, "God, what can I do for you today?!"

Peckville Food and Fellowship

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

Blessed are they who expect nothing, For they shall never be disappointed. -Alexander Pope

Bible Study

Please remember we have a weekly Bible Study every Tuesday evening 7:00pm at the Peckville UMC. We would love for you to join us!! Please note for the month of October we will be meeting on Wednesday evening.

God cares for the lost, the last, and the least. Our mission is the same.

It's Not About Me

There is a book that sits on a shelf in our small office /library/laundry room in our home. It is not a large book, an easy read really, if you had a few hours to yourself, you could go through it in an afternoon. It is a book that I have pulled off of the shelf so many times over the last nine years that the binding is starting to come away from the pages. And if you know me at all it won't take you long to figure out who the author is. The first time I read this book was just about 9 years ago this month. The year before had been a hard year, I had been diagnosed with breast cancer that October before and the following some nine odd months had been devoted to my health, with kind, caring doctors and nurses taking care of and deciding on the best treatments for ME. Now anyone who has faced a health crisis knows how much you depend on the medical staff to help you through, to make the right decisions and usually at some point your doctors declare that you don't need to see them as often, they are confident that your health is in the upswing and they send you home. And you think what now, all of a sudden your safety net is gone, it is then you realize that

your days had been filled with you, everything that you did and thought about had been about you. Now all of a sudden it's not anymore. All of a sudden "It's Not About me"

As I write this I think about the person you may meet out running errands, you are in a hurry, lots to do and you run into someone who at that point needs to talk . Do you quickly pass the time as you keep moving or do you stop and take 5 or 10 minutes. We sometimes may not ever know what that 5 or 10 minutes may mean to that person. I think about the young family sitting in the back pew of a new church for the first time, do we sit in our seats wondering who they are, never even saying hello or do we get up and welcome them and tell them we are so glad they are worshiping with us.

Sadly we can get so caught up in what our own wants are, we do forget it's not always about us.

As I write this I have been struggling with communion. Not the act of communion itself, but how we as a congregation can make the grace that we receive from God through the act of communion become more accessible to all. I know that I have upset a few folks with the use of gluten free bread for the communion service. Some don't like the texture, some don't like the taste. I have prayed, Oh how I have prayed about this asking God if I am wrong for wanting this. Am I doing this for the wrong reason, is it worth upsetting folks, but I keep coming up with the same answer "It's not about me or what I want, it's about making God's grace through Holy Communion available to all of God's children, it's not about me, never will be." It is about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and that everyone has the opportunity to know and love and be loved by Him.

So I ask your indulgence in this, I ask that you take the time to talk with that person who interrupts your day, I ask that you pick

yourself up out of the pew and welcome the stranger, I ask that we make everything we do or say in our lives "all about God". For that my dear friends is what we have been put on this earth to do.

Oh and that little book "It's not about me" by Max Lucado

God's Peace, Beth

Why does the earth spin? For Him

Why do you have talents and abilities? For Him

Why do you have money or poverty? For Him

Strength or struggles? For Him

Everything and everyone exists to reveal His glory. Including you. Max Lucado (It's Not About Me)

Report from the Susquehanna Annual Conference June 7-9 2012

First it is an honor to serve as your lay member to Annual Conference. While driving to the site of Annual Conference, Messiah College near Harrisburg, I couldn't help but think of 175 years ago when the Lackawanna Valley would have been part of the Oneida Annual Conference which was covered a larger area than our present conference. Just from Wilkes-Barre to Oneida NY would have taken over a week by horse. So the two hours and thirty minute drive to our conference is easy. Many Methodists may have taken that long to walk to Sunday services 175 years ago.

I first thing I am always reminded of at Annual Conference is that we are not alone. Of course I know that God is always with us, but I don't mean it in that sense. It is realizing that we are part of a larger community. As with any large community there must be polity and administration, but there is also strength and

synergy. While independent churches have a limited sphere of influence, connectional denominations such as the United Methodist Church, have an affect locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. No other denomination is respected more in getting help to where help is needed most than the United Methodist Church. To John Wesley acts of mercy (relief), were just as important as acts of piety (worship and prayer). I trust JW would essentially approve of our ministry today. Yes; these are the things I observed from Annual Conference. Just call me an optimist.

Since June:

With the retirement of our Bishop Jane Allen Middleton, we have been assigned a new bishop. Bishop Jeremiah J. Park has been appointed to serve as our bishop.

Tom G Taylor

Lay Member to Annual Conference

In order to not “reinvent the wheel” below is a summary of Annual Conference as given by Jerry Wolgemuth, Director of Communications for the conference.

2012 SUSQUEHANNA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY

By Jerry Wolgemuth, Director of Communications

"Something very exciting is happening in our churches as we are understanding that the church is what happens when we take the good news of Jesus Christ into our communities and into the lives of people," proclaimed Bishop Jane Allen Middleton in her keynote address that opened the third session of the newly formed Susquehanna Conference held at Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania, on June 7-9, 2012. Under the theme "The River Flows," the annual gathering drew 1,500

persons to celebration, holy conferencing, and worship.

After Bishop Middleton related some decline in the traditional measurements of membership and attendance, she added, "The good news is that there are signs which I believe are pointing to a foundation for the future of the churches of the Susquehanna Conference: increases in the number of small groups, the numbers of persons in covenant discipleship groups, and the number of persons enrolled in short-term classes for learning of all ages.

"A 39 percent increase in constituents indicates we are making disciples."

"We had an increase in mission team participants and a 28 percent increase in the number of mission teams. A 39 percent increase in the number of persons served in our communities indicates we are partnering with God in transforming the world."

Guest speaker, Bishop J. Michael Lowry of the Central Texas Annual Conference, presented two topics to the conference, "Revitalizing Congregations" and "New Places for New People." "The reality of living in a pagan society on steroids has brought our denomination to the point where we cannot just rely upon an 'either/or' strategy in order for renewal of The United Methodist Church to occur," Bishop Lowry said. "We have to start thinking in terms of 'both/and.' It's time to breathe deep and focus."

Bishop John Yambasu of the Sierra Leone Conference in Africa was the special guest of the Conference. "You gave us hope," he said in his address to the Conference, recalling the ten years to 2002 in which one-half million people died, and one-half million were maimed.

"Since 2009 alone, \$280,000 has been sent [to us] for pastoral support. Over \$47,000 in program support was given, and the total of all support funds has grown to almost \$608,000. The number of full-time clergy has risen from 43 in 2008 to 65 in 2012."

Bishop Yambasu continued, "One of the most modern high schools in the country has been constructed in great part due to contributions from the Susquehanna Conference, and has been named 'Bishop Middleton High School.' "

The 2012 Susquehanna Conference marked the final year in the eight-year term of Bishop Middleton. A celebration of her ministry was held on the evening of June 8. Testimonies to her ministry came in many forms: video montages captured the Bishop's prophetic leadership, fun times during her years of leadership, and even out-takes from media productions.

Bishop Middleton described her time in the Conference as, "one unfolding after another of God's miracles."

The conference celebrated the ministries of thirty-four retiring clergy and the lives of 33 clergy or spouses that passed to their eternal reward during the year. The sermon for the Service of Remembrance and Celebration of Life was delivered by Rev. Roger Mentzer, chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

"Those generations who have preceded us have dug wells in times of spiritual drought and in times of springtime when the water flows freely. Our brothers and sisters of Christ have taken the water and offered it to us in every season of their lives," Mentzer proclaimed.

Mission Central celebrated ten years in mission. What began as a vision of Bishop Neil L. Irons has grown far and wide since its beginning. Since January to May of 2012

Mission Central has reached over 12,000 individuals and in that same period over \$2.6 million worth of resources were distributed by all the organizations located in the warehouse.

Legislative action included:

1. A proposal to modify the structure of the conference so as to align with the focus and goals of the Susquehanna Conference was overwhelmingly approved.
2. The Board of Pensions recommended and received approval for the continuing support to the Central Conference Pension Initiative in the amount of \$75,000.
3. A resolution to oppose payday loan legislation in Pennsylvania was supported.
4. A new policy was approved for handling the proceeds of abandoned and discontinued churches in order to provide more funding for new church starts.
5. The Conference approved a Plan for Funding Ministry for 2013 that reflects a decrease of 1.9 percent.

Ten persons were commissioned as provisional elders, two were recognized as associate members, and ten persons were ordained.

Special offering totals to date were: Cup of Water Fund, \$21,004.36; Mission Central General Fund, \$19,017.26; Encounter With Christ, \$17,098.01; Youth Service Fund, \$6,000, and donation by the Susquehanna Conference to Mission Central in honor of Bishop Jane Allen Middleton, \$20,000.

Membership is down two percent; worship attendance is down two percent, and professions of faith is down three percent.

The above summary was given by Jerry Wolgemuth, Director of Communications

Sky Lake Fall festival

Sunday, September 30th, 1:30-5:00pm

Art show & sale, silent auction, pie sale, pumpkin search, artisan demonstration, outh group scavenger cup challenge, pumpkin decorating, baked potato bar

All proceeds benefit the Sky lake Campership Fund

For more information, please visit www.skylakecenter.org/fallfestival

God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees, and flowers, and clouds, and stars. -Martin Luther

Sky Lake Winter retreat

Winter is swiftly approaching and the snow fun may begin. Winter can be a lot of fun, even if Joe Snedikar doesn't think so, especially at Sky Lake.

This retreat will be February 1 to 3, 2013.

Adults (12 to ?) \$96.00

Children (3 to 11) \$49.00

Friday arrival and Sunday departure.

If we take time for prayer, we will find time for all the other things needing our attention.

**Walk Around for Hunger
October 13, 9:00am to noon**

**At Mellow Park, 99 Keystone Ave
Peckville, Pa 18452
To benefit
Bread Basket of Northeast Pa.
Sponsored by the**

Mid-Valley Ecumenical Ministerium and area churches.

**Sponsor forms are available at the First United Presbyterian Church of Lackawanna Valley or through breadbasketnepa@verizon.net
More information 489-4682
/bread basket 343-2324**

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 7:00pm.
Peckville choir Thursday's at 6:45
10/6 – Hoagie sale - Peckville
10/8 – Peckville welsh cookie bake
10/13 – Bread basket Walk
10/21– food and fellowship Sunday
10/30 – Sky lake Fall Festival
11/3 – Roast beef dinner**

God wants us to have faith more than in our souls; God wants us to have it in our shoes.

You can reach the charge secretary at 383-2119 or by e-mail at edt1157@yahoo.com

The church is the church only when it exists for others. -Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The closer we come to God, the more we realize our distance.

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

Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. - Martin Luther

We can preach a better sermon with our life than with our lips. -Oliver Goldsmith [adpated]

If we cannot pray when the sun shines, we will not know how to pray when the clouds come.

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 15th century, radio and television in the 20th century, Christians in the 21st 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.

Peckville UMC has a Face book page!!

We are still trying to compile an e-mail list to send as many newsletters as possible this way because the price of postage for mailing it is so expensive. Your e-mail will be used for the newsletter only and occasionally other important information pertaining to your church. We will also use a blind copy to send out the newsletter so your e-mail will be safe. If you would receive the newsletter in this way please send your e-mail to Beth Taylor at edt1157@yahoo.com and please put church e-mail in subject bar. Thank You Beth.

