



# Fellowship News

Willow Grove United Methodist Church



**APRIL/MAY 2011**

## ***WHAT'S IN A NUMBER?* Thoughts from the Pastor**

### **Attendance and Membership**

There is some good news to share about the state of our church. As I write, my daffodils are jutting 3 or 4 inches out of the cold, brown dirt. They give me hope that spring is coming, although the winter has been long and cold. So it is with two statistics we recently reported to the Annual Conference, as we do every year.

First, our average annual attendance has gone up...by 1! Second, our membership has increased...by 1! It doesn't sound like big news, but consider this: we have halted a steady decline.

All numbers tell a story. The story about our attendance is that the sanctuary at the late service on regular Sunday mornings may look emptier, but our early service and special Sundays draw members and guests into the church. The story of our membership numbers is that in 2009 we removed dozens of inactive members from our rolls, after repeated attempts to contact them. And it is from that new, lower number that we have also increased. Only by one.

**But, oh the power of ONE!** One is not simply a number; it represents one person reached for Christ. It represents one person inspired by a Bible reading, one person moved by a choir anthem, one person welcomed into God's family. That is the blessing of one. We build the church, one by one by one.

### **Our Community Impact, By the Numbers**

Another item of interest to me was a recent article in the Philadelphia Inquirer by David O'Reilly that cites a study that answers a question we ask ourselves in the church: **Are we relevant to the community?** Are we having an impact? The article described the "economic halo" effect that churches have. This is a way of measuring a church's economic effect on its surrounding community using 54 value categories. (Read the article at [http://articles.philly.com/2011-02-01/news/27092987\\_1\\_partners-for-sacred-places-congregations-churches](http://articles.philly.com/2011-02-01/news/27092987_1_partners-for-sacred-places-congregations-churches))

Think about all of the ways our church is a positive economic force: we house a daycare that provides jobs, we buy paper and cleaning supplies, we purchase food for church events, we pay a piano tuner and organ repairman, the pastor has her clergy robes cleaned at the dry cleaner, etc. The study also calculated intangibles like teaching children moral values, saving marriages (counseling), and others. They even measured trees on the property of churches!

If you consider all these factors, surely we would be missed if we weren't here. And certainly we are having an impact in Willow Grove and beyond. So pray for our congregation this Lenten season, and consider how your gifts of time, talent and money will help us stay strong and grow, for God's sake, for your sake, for the sake of our neighbors and the world.

Amen! -- *Pastor Cyndi*

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**LETTERS TO OUR  
CONGREGATION**

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Dear Friends,  
Once again my church family has supported me in this latest hospitalization and rehab, and I am very appreciative. My recuperation is progressing and I hope to see you in church soon. -**Gene Koswoski**

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for your prayers, phone calls, and cards. I really appreciated each and every one of these thoughtful expressions of concern.  
In Christian Love, **Shirley Lupton**

Heifer International gratefully recognizes Willow Grove United Methodist Church for participating in the Animal Crackers program. Because of your contribution, families struggling with hunger and poverty will receive the gift of healthy animals and training in their care. Thanks for making a meaningful difference in the world.  
**Charles Stewart, Interim CEO**

Dear Church Family,  
Mother (& we) appreciate the notes, cards and visits to see her and or keep in touch. She asks me "Is there any mail?" each time I visit – we put the cards on her side of the room. Thanks again, and Mother says, " God Bless You".  
Sincerely, **Judy Davis (for Anna Hamm)**  
PS: As the weather improves, anyone who visits Mother can push her out to one of the courtyards for some fresh air! PPS: Special thanks to Bobbie for her upbeat notes.

Hi Everyone! I'm so glad you remember me in prayer. Thank you! I think of all of you often but I am not good about writing letters. My father is slowing down a bit, but for an 87 year old, he's okay! I've been having a flair up of fibromyalgia but like Paul, I shall persevere. At my workplace, we have one church program every day except Thur. and usually two Christian programs on Sat & Sun. It's a great place to work, but as usual, I tend to over-do. Hope this finds all of you well. I miss you all, -**Ellen T Bell** (See pictures on the bulletin board.)

**Breast Cancer: is one of the leading causes of death among older women worldwide – The Pink Elephants hope to change that!**

For the 5th year, the Pink Elephants are walking and raising money to help find a cure for breast cancer. Fund-raising activities that involve eating establishments that do not charge a rental fee will save us \$800-\$1000! Of course, it will only work if we entice you to join us at the events. As Paul (Hyde) says, "We all need to eat!" About once a month for the next few months, you can share a bite to eat with us and with your family and friends while helping others. Some events require advance tickets or reservations. We hope to see each of you sometime, or several "sometimes."

**April 23, 8:00-10:00 am and September 17, 8:00-10:00 am** – Flapjack Fundraisers at the Southampton Applebee's, 1063 Street Road; purchase tickets early or at the door but a headcount is important; Adults - \$7.50 and Children (4-12 years old) \$4.50; menu: flapjacks, sausage, syrup, butter, and beverage (coffee, tea, orange juice, or soda); limited number of tickets.

**June 13 & August 25, 4:00-8:00 pm** – Chick-Fil-A at the Willow Grove Mall; patrons can place receipts from purchases during this time into a special box and we receive a percentage of those receipts; the cow will be there; if we get a decent head count ahead of time, there could also be a balloon person.

**July 5 & September 1, 4:00 8:00 pm** – Chick-Fil-A near the Regal Cinema in Warrington; same deal as above, although they did not mention the balloon person.

**Somewhere in the world, a woman dies from breast cancer every 69 seconds.** We hope to see you soon! If you are unable to attend our fundraisers, guess what? We accept monetary donations! You can donate on the 3-Day website (the3day.org) by using participant names Jenny Hyde and/or Joanna Hyde. You can also download a form that you mail in with your donation. If you cannot download the donation form, let us know and we will mail you a copy. Thank you for your support, whether monetary, verbal, prayerful, or in any other way. **Without each of you, the cure would not be so close!!**

Peace & Love, **Jenny & Joanna**



**May 22, 2011 Covenant Players**  
Worship services at 8:15 and 10:45 am in the Sanctuary

**May 29, 2011**  
Worship services at 8:15 and 10:45 am in the Sanctuary

**April 3, 2011 Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Holy Communion**

Worship 8:15 am Chapel  
10:45 am Sanctuary

**April 10, 2011 Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Worship 8:15 am Chapel  
10:45 am Sanctuary

**April 17, 2011 Palm/Passion Sunday**

Farewell to Amy and Tom Gardner  
Worship 8:15 am Sanctuary  
10:45 am Sanctuary

**April 21, 2011 Holy Thursday  
Holy Communion**

Worship 7:30 pm Sanctuary

**April 22, 2011 Good Friday**

Combined Service with Jenkintown Area churches. Theme: Songs and Hymns  
12 noon - 1:00 pm  
*Immaculate Conception Church*  
602 West Ave., Jenkintown

**April 24, 2011 EASTER!**

Worship services at 8:15 and 10:45 am in the Sanctuary

**May 1, 2011**

**Holy Communion**

Worship services at 8:15 and 10:45 am in the Sanctuary  
Holocaust Remembrance Day

**May 8, 2011 Native American Ministries Sunday**

Worship services at 8:15 and 10:45 am in the Sanctuary

**May 15, 2011 Change the World Sunday**

Worship services at 8:15 and 10:45 am in the Sanctuary




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**ACOLYTES**

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**April 3, 2011**  
10:45 am Alex Pronzato

**April 10, 2011**  
10:45 am Trevor Baelz

**April 17, 2011**  
10:45 am Casey Eichelberger

**April 24, 2011**  
10:45 am Tim Kistner

**May 1, 2011**  
10:45 am Danica Eichelberger

**May 8, 2011**  
10:45 am Ryan Breen

**May 15, 2011**  
10:45 am Genevieve Montante

**May 22, 2011**  
10:45 am Alex Pronzato

**May 29, 2011**  
10:45 am Trevor Baelz

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**GREETERS**

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**April 3, 2011**  
8:15 am Ann Boyer  
10:45 am Ruth Akers

**April 10, 2011**  
8:15 am Eliane Carr  
10:45 am Kim Hunt

**April 17, 2011**  
8:15 am Janice Whittle  
10:45 am Paul & Jenny Hyde

**April 24, 2011**  
8:15 am Cheryl DelSordo  
10:45 am Linda Weller

**May 1, 2011**

8:15 am Doris Hardcastle  
10:45 am Charles Sievers

**May 8, 2011**

8:15 am Joyce Mathers  
10:45 am Jane Sharman

**May 15, 2011**

8:15 am Shirley Lupton  
10:45 am Carolyn Gwin

**May 22, 2011**

8:15 am Joan Law  
10:45 am Bobbie Stachel

**May 29, 2011**

8:15 am Sue & Bob Mathers  
10:45 am Stephen Krall

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**USHERS**

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**April 3, 2011**

8:15 am Lucille Roberto  
10:45 am Ed Skilton, Emily Graupner  
Ken Graupner, Andy Toussaint

**April 10, 2011**

8:15 am Robert Mathers, Susan Mathers  
10:45 am Brad Cooper, Charles Sievers,  
Don Petrunis

**April 17, 2011**

8:15 am Shirley Lupton, Ruth Roberts  
10:45 am Paul Hyde, Ted Abel, John Avery

**April 24, 2011**

8:15 am Eliane Carr, Cheryl DelSordo  
10:45 am Colin Weller, Howard Erwin  
Keith Weller, Janice Weller

**May 1, 2011**

8:15 am Paul Dorozinsky, Howard Erwin  
10:45 am Howard Short, Jr., Ruth Akers  
Naomi Finney, Loretta Kleeman

**May 8, 2011**

8:15 am Lucille Roberto  
10:45 am Ed Skilton, Emily Graupner  
Ken Graupner, Andy Toussaint

**May 15, 2011**

8:15 am Robert Mathers, Susan Mathers  
10:45 am Brad Cooper, Charles Sievers,  
Don Petrunis

**May 22, 2011**

8:15 am Shirley Lupton, Ruth Roberts  
10:45 am Paul Hyde, Ted Abel, John Avery

**May 29, 2011**

8:15 am Eliane Carr, Cheryl DelSordo  
10:45 am Colin Weller, Howard Erwin  
Keith Weller, Janice Weller

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**ALTAR FLOWERS**

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**April 3, 2011**

In loving memory of **George Burrows**,  
given by his wife, Dottie

In loving memory of **Lorraine Ruch**,  
given by her husband, Bob and family

**April 10, 2011**

In loving memory of **Florence Weideman**,  
given by her husband John and family

In loving memory of **our loved ones**,  
given by Louise Plageman and family

**April 17, 2011**

In loving memory of **Genevieve Bulman**,  
given by her daughters, Ann Newberry and  
Barbara Lamb

In loving memory of **Jack Benning**,  
given by his wife, Charlotte and family

**April 24, 2011**

**Easter plants**

**May 1, 2011**

In loving memory of **Polly Woehr**,  
given by her husband Bill and family

In loving memory of **Jane Whittle** for her  
birthday, given by her daughter Janice

**May 8, 2011**

In loving memory of **Minnie Avery**,  
given by her husband John

In loving memory of our **Mother, Kathryn  
Fridey and Grandmother Elizabeth**,  
given by Janet Erwin and family

**May 15, 2011**

In loving memory of **Marion and Roy Necker**,  
given by Dottie Burrows

In loving memory of **Lorraine Ruch**,  
given by her husband, Bob and family

In loving memory of **Brenda Schweigert**,  
given by her sister, Gloria, John and Garrett  
Ketterlinus

**May 22, 2011**

In loving memory of **Francis "Chick" Adair**,  
given by his wife Marie

In loving memory of **Carl Schwab**,  
given by his wife Caroline, and family

**May 29, 2011**

In loving memory of **Mother, Ruth  
Ketterlinus**,  
given by John, Gloria and Garrett



Meals  
Ministry

**MEAL MINISTRY** A new ministry is starting up, looking for fresh ideas and people to help! Amy Gardner has a passion for helping families in need within our congregation by providing meals for them (whether for our homebound members, new parents, members experiencing loss or hardship etc.). We're looking for people who would be willing to make a meal for a family once every couple of months. Use the signup sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in helping! We can turn Amy's idea into a new program, even after she leaves.

**CALLING ALL "NEWBIES"**

(Parents of Young Children and Soon-To-Be Parents) During the past year or two, several families in our congregation have welcomed new babies, and more are expected. A new baby brings new joy, new responsibilities and sometimes new tribulation.



To encourage parents of young children, and soon-to-be parents, to share with one another their experiences, blessings and war stories, a table will be designated as a gathering place during fellowship time on Palm Sunday, April 17. There will be nearby space for baby carriers and other gear. Highchairs also will be available, and no doubt there will be some miscellaneous doting adults.

Amy and Tom Gardner likely will be very interested in all the baby talk, because they will become parents in August or September. If you are a newbie, please bring your little one, or two, and enjoy camaraderie and a light lunch following the 10:45 Palm Sunday worship service.



**PLACE YOUR EASTER  
FLOWER ORDER NOW**

Easter flowers are \$6.00 again this year. Order envelopes have been included in this newsletter and are available in the Narthex and church office.



Easter Flowers

**Please have your orders in by Wednesday, April 13th.** If you have any questions, contact Dominick Beben at 215-657-5923.

**BULLETIN BOARD COORDINATOR NEEDED**

Pastor Cyndi is looking for a person to handle making sure that the bulletin boards in the church are maintained. Some of them have cloth overlay which is fraying, and others don't get updated often enough. If you have a creative eye, and enjoy making news and events stand out to people, please contact Pastor Cyndi. This ministry can be a real, tangible asset and encouragement to the whole congregation.

**SO HOW 'BOUT THOSE PHILLIES?!** You are invited to join hundreds of United Methodists to see the Phillies play on Saturday, July 30th. To order tickets for UNITED METHODIST NIGHT AT THE PHILLIES at 7:05 pm, for Phillies against the Pittsburgh Pirates, go to:

[www.epaumc.org/events/calendar/2011-phillies](http://www.epaumc.org/events/calendar/2011-phillies)

Let the office know if you order tickets. If there is a group, we can share rides.



**CARSON SIMPSON FARM** has an opportunity for adult members from our church to volunteer one day for the August Marketplace **'Where Jesus Walked.'** Partner with CSF to man the

shops, sell wares, and demonstrate some of the trades for the children attending camp on Thursday, August 4th (must also be available for rain-date, August 5th). If you are interested, please contact Cheryl DeSordo at 215-657-1123. Meg at CSF would like to have volunteers in place by May 1st. **2011 Summer Theme: No Matter What - A love that won't let go** (Romans 8: 38-39) *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.*

**MONTHLY COLLECTION FOR APRIL:** Small prizes for Bible verse coin table at Carson Simpson Farm. Suggested items per CSF staff include:

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|--|-------------------|
| Little stuffed animals                         | Jewelry           |
| Matchbox/hot wheels                            | Sticker packs     |
| New Children's books                           | Barrettes         |
| Puzzle books                                   | Pony tail holders |
| Coloring books                                 | Water bottles     |
| Crayons  | Baseball cards    |
| Boys-sports themed items                       |                   |
| Sunglasses or fun glasses                      |                   |
| Small wrapped candy (no chocolate or meltable) |                   |

**MAY'S COLLECTION IS:** New toothbrushes, travel sized shampoo, soap, and toothpaste. This is also for Carson Simpson Farm.

**THE DEADLINE** for the June/July issue of **THE FELLOWSHIP NEWS** is **May 10**. Thank you in advance for your timely submissions!

**DEADLINE FOR SUNDAY BULLETIN** All articles for the Sunday Bulletin Announcements must be in by noon Wednesday. Any articles received after this will be considered for the following Sunday's announcements.

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOUNDATION OFFERS THIS THOUGHT:**

It was a sunny day when God commanded Noah to build something that had never been built before. God said, "So make yourself an ark of cypress wood." Genesis 6:14 (NIV). What God knew and what Noah learned is that it is easier to build a boat when it is not raining. Showers will come in our lives too, but when we prepare, there's a promised rainbow on the other side.

The Foundation's vision is to be recognized as a financial steward building a financial legacy for the making of disciples of Jesus Christ. What is your ark made of? What will your legacy be? Consider a planned gift to an endowment fund that you support and help ensure we are prepared for future generations. Go to [www.myumcflegacy.org](http://www.myumcflegacy.org) for more information.

Under current laws, appreciated securities and real estate can be deductible for federal income tax purposes at their present fair market value. In most cases, the appreciation is not taxed to you at all. Consider using such outright gifts for the benefit of the church, as a special gift or an endowment.

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**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Submitted by Blanche Erwin

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**DAY APART AND INGATHERING** - The East District UMW Day Apart and Ingathering is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, at Doylestown United Methodist Church located at 320 Swamp Rd., Doylestown, PA 18901. Schedule for the morning: 8:30 am - Ingathering Collection and refreshments; 9:00 am - Day Apart Service in the sanctuary. We need new articles of clothing for the Ingathering. Most needed are socks and underwear for women, men, teens, boys and girls, and baby clothing, baby blankets and disposable diapers. Donations of new items can be left in Room 201 prior to April 30.

**UMNS** The United Methodist Women support United Methodist Neighborhood Services with the collection of specific items each month. The items for April and May are washcloths and toothbrushes. Please leave items in Room 201.



## WILLOW GROVE TRI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



Willow Grove United Methodist Church was the first church in Willow Grove. At Church Council, we decided that it was important to be visible at some of the events scheduled by the community. A church committee has been formed, but we are still looking for members who are interested in helping with this historic celebration.

We have reserved a tent for the Davisville Road Block Party on May 21 from 1:00 to 5:00. Some of the activities we are planning are face painting, a clown and crafts for children, and pictures of the church. We will have our own stamp for the Passport Books being distributed. Prizes will be given for anyone who gets all of the stamps in their passport. Hopefully, we will come up with a souvenir with the church name, to be given to those visiting our tent.

The church parking lot will be made available for the event. Crossroads Band will play on the front lawn and Elvis Pretzel (John Ekey) will perform during their breaks. ASP will be selling food.

We would like to open the church for the community to see, especially the stained glass windows and the windows that were saved from the original church that now are in the narthex and chapel.

If anyone is interested in marching in the Loyalty Day parade on May 1, please contact Pastor Cyndi or Marilu Skilton. Contact Marilu if you want to get involved: 215-659-2405. For more information on the celebration during May and June, please visit willowgrove300.com on the web.

### Willow Grove's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- May 1** Loyalty Day Parade
- May 14** Community Day (Upper Moreland Campus)
- May 15** 5:00pm Church Choirs at Calvary Presbyterian Church
- May 21** Block Party on Davisville Road (Including Train Display, Police, Settlement Music School, Library, WGUMC, Karate Demonstrations, Dunk Tank, Art Display, Pie/Cake Contest, Passport Station, Food, Aldersgate and much more!)

### Upcoming Events

- April 2** 1:30pm Youth Edible Plants Hike
- April 10** 12:00pm Women of Faith Info Mtg
- April 16** 8:00am Church Clean-up
- April 17** 12:00pm Farewell Reception for the Gardners
- May 19-21** Annual Conference, Oaks, PA  
Registration deadline is April 30

### Committee meetings

- April 5** 7:15pm Trustees
- April 6** 7:00pm 300th Anniv. Mtg
- April 26** 7:00pm Church Council
- April 28** 1:00pm Altar Guild
- May 3** 7:15pm Trustees
- May 10** 7:00pm SPRC
- May 18** 7:30pm Finance Committee

### Life Transitions

- Charles E Baxter, Jr.** entered into eternal life on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011.
- Stephen Odonkor, Jr.** was born to Stephen and Carolyn Odonkor on February 26.
- Brooklyn Carys Cragle** was born to Ryan and Alexis Cragle on March 3.
- Layla Brewster** was born to Melissa Brewster on March 21.

### Changes of Address/ Corrections to the Church Directory

Daniel Geisz\* (accidentally omitted)  
102 Sourwood Dr  
Hatboro, PA 19040  
215-675-1326

Joseph Roberto  
New Address: 102 Spanish Wells Road  
Spring Lake, NC 28390

Brad Cooper  
Updated Phone: 215-290-0497

Robert and Marie Cooley  
Town is Kingston not Kinston

Edie Schimpf  
New Phone: 570-794-6037

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## TRUSTEES REPORT

Submitted by Ken Graupner

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The trustees and their helpers have been very busy since the day after Christmas when Willow Grove experienced the first of this winter's many snowfalls. Thanks to the Mathers crew who were dependable and quick to plow the parking lot, shovel and clear the walks, and spread ice-melt on what was an every week task throughout the month of January.

In February, the trustees, in consultation with the finance committee, negotiated another one-year lease with Comcast for ten parking spaces. Their employees and vehicles are permitted to use our lot during business hours Monday through Friday.

At the end of February, master painter Chuck Staley picked up his roller and brush and painted the first-floor hallway from the driveway stairwell to the education building. It looks clean and fresh. The trustees ask everyone to **use the many bulletin boards and tack strips** when hanging notices, posters, artwork and other items. **Please do not stick anything to the walls, floors or ceilings.** Often when items are removed, an unsightly residue remains. In addition, it makes for extra work when cleaning and painting are to be done.

Speaking of cleaning, **April 16 has been designated spring clean-up day.** An army of worker bees are needed to spruce up the church prior to Easter. Please come any time between 8:00am and 1:00pm. Come when you can; leave when you must. Bring your favorite cleaning supplies.

The church van is prepared for increased use with the approach of better weather and activities that require transportation. Regular maintenance has been attended to, including the purchase of new tires, to provide reliability and safety for the riders.

Already the daffodils and spring-flowering bulbs have begun to come up in the front garden, and soon the cherry trees will blossom. The trustees are seeking several people to help in keeping the flower beds looking cared for and the weeds among the missing. Please let Ken Graupner know if you have an interest in this.

Remember to turn out all lights when you leave a room. One by one new high-efficiency light bulbs have been replacing the old bulbs as they burn

out, but turning lights off still saves energy and money. Be sure there is no water running when you leave the kitchen or lavatories. If you want to hold an event or use a room, please fill out a facilities form available in the office. This is the most reliable way to inform the trustees of the specifics of your plans and allow them to support your activity.

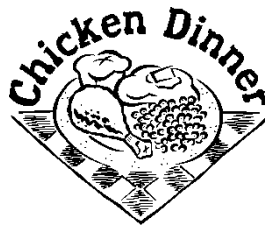
As always, many people contribute their time and skills behind the scenes to care for our building and grounds. The trustees appreciate everyone's willingness to help. Many, many thanks.

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## UNITED METHODIST MEN

Submitted by Bill Woehr

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**A TAKE-OUT CHICKEN DINNER** will take place on **Wednesday, April 27.** All persons who paid in October and come with their tickets will receive their dinners. Pick-

up is between 4:00-6:00pm. Dinners will be prepared by Chuck Staley, John Avery, Howard Short, Jr. and Bob Ruch. Others may assist too. Friends and family wishing to purchase tickets please contact Howard Short, Charles Sievers, John Ketterlinus, Bill Woehr, or Amy Gardner (church office). The \$8 dinner will include ½ breast of chicken, potatoes, green beans, roll, butter, salad, and dessert. This is one evening you won't have to prepare dinner, or wash dishes and you help the UMM and your church, as all proceeds go to the church's needs. Please help us by purchasing tickets ASAP so that we may adequately purchase, plan and provide an excellent take out dinner for your enjoyment.







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## HOSPITALITY

Submitted by Emily Graupner

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### Greeters

Thanks to everyone who welcomes people to worship on Sunday mornings. (Everyone includes **you**, in case you didn't know it!) Handshakes and smiles help to make the worship experience a pleasant one. A warm "hello" allows us to become better acquainted with each other and with visitors. Pastor Cyndi appreciates your willingness to introduce visitors to her following the service.

A special thanks to Kim Hunt who schedules greeters for the 8:15 and 10:45 services. Please look in this newsletter and make note of your time slot. This, and the list posted on the bulletin board outside the narthex, are the way greeters learn of their assigned times. If you cannot greet at that time, please switch with someone else, note it on the schedule, and leave word in the office. If you would like to be added to the greeter list, let Kim know.

### Fellowship time

In February, the hospitality committee helped with fellowship time on two noteworthy occasions. At the beginning of the month, Tom and Amy Gardner shared information about their call to be involved with Village Missions, a ministry in rural America. Thanks to some delicious donations, egg salad, tuna, and peanut butter sandwiches were available as well as snacks, sweet treats and beverages.

At the end of February, the indoor soccer league celebrated its twenty-sixth year, with recognition during the 10:45 worship service and light refreshments afterward in the fellowship hall. Special thanks to Ed Donnelley for baking soft pretzels, and serving them warm out of the oven.

Fellowship time is planned for April 17, following the Palm Sunday Service. It will provide an opportunity to say farewell to Tom and Amy Gardner before they leave for Indiana. Tom and Amy have become a special part of our congregation. Tom provides leadership to our youth group. Amy sings in the choir and efficiently handles the duties of administrative assistant in the office. The hospitality and staff parish committees will be hosting a light lunch. Come and wish Tom and Amy well.

### Stained glass windows showing

In May, Willow Grove will celebrate its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. (See article elsewhere in this *Fellowship News*.) As part of our church's participation, a showing of our stained glass windows is planned. We anticipate this will occur late in the morning on May 14 as a stop on the walking tour of historic Willow Grove. Again the sanctuary will be open on Saturday afternoon, May 21, for the Davisville Road block party. Church members are needed to provide information and answer visitors' questions. A script will be provided. There will also be a compact disc available. Please leave your name in the office if you can help.

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## THE DOERS GROUP

Submitted by Howard Erwin

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The Doers meet at 11:00 am in the church lounge on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. After devotions, business meeting and program, we move to the Fellowship Hall for lunch. Members bring a sandwich or salad. Beverages and desserts are provided. We will meet on Thursday April 14. Thursday, April 28, we will celebrate the **Doers 25th** anniversary with a covered dish luncheon and a program of treasured items. Please bring a covered dish of either a salad, vegetable or a casserole to serve 8 persons. We will be providing the dessert. Also, bring a treasured item for our program. May 12 program to be announced. On May 26 the Doers will go to the Tech School on Terwood Road for lunch.

There will be a sign-up sheet for those interested in attending. Reserve the date - June 9 is our annual picnic. Come and join with us for good fellowship. Anyone 55 or older is welcome to attend. New members are always welcome.



### **SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRIES**

Submitted by Jenny Hyde, Ted Abel, & Blanche Erwin

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## **FROM THE YOUTH COORDINATOR**

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Submitted by Tom Gardner

**IT HAS BEEN GREAT** to see the warmer weather and the melting away of the winter snows. In Youth Group we've been observing this spring season by learning more about Lent, and being encouraged to grow in our faith during this season before Easter. We will also be welcoming the springtime with a hike on April 2 at Pennypack Ecological Trust to learn about some of the edible wild plants found in our area. As you can see there are many exciting things we have happening as the seasons change! On a side note, this April will also be my last month here with you all. I thank you for the privilege of serving with you for these past couple of years. I know that I have greatly enjoyed working with everyone and I am confident that this group will continue to go on and do great things in the years to come!

**THE APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT MISSION TEAM** would like to thank the congregation for a wonderful hoagie sale two weeks ago and a very enjoyable Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 12th. To everyone who donated their, time, energy, appetite, prayers, and bought hoagies or a dinner, it is much appreciated. Thanks for the help of the Kistners, Daugherty's, Skripak/Breen, Bernards, Durchsprungs, Mathers, Jen, Tori, Bobby, Jessie, Zach, Nicole, Ryan, Brian, Jeanette, and Jeff Shaw for the projector.

We are one third of the way to our goal of \$9,500 to pay for registration, lodging, food, supplies, and gas for our trip to West Virginia in the Appalachian Mountains region, July 23-30, 2011.

Don't forget ASP hire-a-mission team for odd jobs, yard work, window cleaning, and other household chores coming in April and May. Call Nancy at 215-658-1550 to schedule your hire-a-mission team project.

**THINK SUMMER!!!** Camp brochures are available at the first-floor display and in the Narthex. There is a camp for everyone, toddler through grandparent! Register quickly because some camps are filling up already. Each camp takes registrations on-line or by mail. Volunteers are always needed - nurses, counselors, maintenance, arts & crafts. Monetary donations are always welcome, too. Contact camps directly to register and with questions.

**ITS NOT TOO LATE** to join us for one of the Lenten Bible Study series. **24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD**, this year's study, follows the provocative book of Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. This United Methodist congregation is one of the fastest growing in the country. Hamilton's church was named most influential mainline church in America by "The Church Report." He describes the events of Jesus' last day, and takes us on a DVD tour. He challenges us to see how these events are still changing people's lives today. Come and journey through Lent together, on Tuesday evenings, 7-9 pm April 5, 12, 19 at the Hyde residence, or Wednesday mornings, 11am-12 noon, April 6, 13, 20, 27 in the Lounge.

**LENTEN BANKS** Heifer International answers the call to help end hunger and poverty through the generosity of individuals and groups. Many families around the world benefit by harvesting their own crops for the first time. Other families will enjoy a nutritious diet, thanks to a gift of a goat or cow, and the extra milk can be sold to pay for schooling. Heifer assisted more than 140,000 families last year with gifts of animals and training. Your help is needed! The Sunday School children invite everyone to place coins in the Heifer Banks during Lent.



### GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S SERVICE

A Children's Good Friday service will be held at 2:00 pm on Friday, April 22, in the Chapel. The children will participate in a worship service with singing and a Bible story followed by crafts. Children through grade 4 are invited to attend and bring a friend!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** continues weekly from 9:30 – 10:30. Nursery through 4<sup>th</sup> grade meet in room 201. The WoRM class (grades 5 – 8) meets in Fellowship Hall, while the senior high meets in room 301. Young adults are now meeting in the nursery, room 203, to accommodate young children; and adult classes can be found in the chapel, as well as 300. There's something for everyone! Try us out this Easter season. You'll be glad you did.



### NEWS FROM THE WoRM PROGRAM Scary, Weird, and Gross



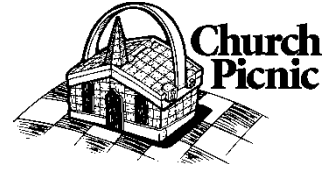
Bible lessons are coming to Willow Grove for July, August, and the first Sunday in September. The WoRM students will join the Senior High for some unique, fun, and interesting Bible stories. Who can brush their teeth the longest with a common baking item? Come join us for this "competition" and many more scary, weird, and gross activities that help us learn about some lesser known stories.

### Lent/Easter for April

- April 3 Churchopoly – games
- April 10 Bon Appetit – food
- April 17 Creation – butterflies & scratch art
- April 24 Once Upon a Bible – breads, charades

### The Prophets for May

- May 1 Elijah – Beaker Bog – Fire
- May 8 Jeremiah, Elisha, Amos – Laptop Lab – computers
- May 15 Elisha & Elijah – Creation
- May 22 Nehemiah, Jeremiah, Amos – Churchopoly
- May 29 David the King – Laptop Lab - computers



**It's coming! IT'S COMING!** The church picnic. Please set aside **Sunday, June 26**, for worship and family fun. We will begin with an outdoor worship service at Carson Simpson Farm and follow that with the picnic, songs, and games. The pool will be open from 1:00 until 5:00 for everyone to use as well.

But to make it all happen we need your help. Please consider volunteering to arrive early to help set up, to help with food preparation, to assist with clean up, or to help with the games.

This year's picnic promises to be fun for all, so start your summer off on the right foot and come to your church's picnic.

Please return the bottom portion of this announcement to Ted Abel, any Sunday School teacher, to the church office or drop it in the offering plate. Thank you in advance for helping to make the picnic fun for all.

Yes, I/We can help with the following item(s) for the picnic:

- \_\_\_\_\_ set up for worship
- \_\_\_\_\_ set up for the picnic
- \_\_\_\_\_ food preparation
- \_\_\_\_\_ games
- \_\_\_\_\_ clean up
- \_\_\_\_\_ other

NAME:

Contact Information:

**Pastor's Book Club:**

### **Local Author, Jack Althouse**

Our next book will be "Second Sight" written by Jack Althouse, a friend of Craig and Linda Weller, whose wife Diane was a member here at Willow Grove. They are now both involved in the Tabor United Methodist Church in Woxall PA, near where they live in Perkiomenville. Linda writes, "Jack is an architect by profession, and an Indiana Jones/Star Wars adventure-type writer with a huge compassionate heart. He really enjoys researching and writing, and hopes his writing will help fund current pro bono work he is engaged in for construction of an orphanage he is designing in Egypt, an AIDS hospital he is designing in Kigoma, Tanzania, and a church he and his son are helping to build in Patzun, Guatemala. A portion of his proceeds will be donated to [The Mission Society](#). Second Sight is the first of a series. Jack has a fascinating way of exploring the archeological past, present, and future, which makes you think twice." The books will be ordered and available in the church office. Mr. Althouse has offered to come speak to the book club about his book after we read it. Watch for details in News and Notes, or call the church office for info.

### **Update from Staff Parish Relations Committee**

The SPRC has interviewed candidates for the Administrative Assistant position, and hope to announce a new hire in the near future. At this time, SPRC will be postponing replacing the Youth Coordinator. SPRC is in the process of discerning the best way to serve our youth. There will be a follow-up meeting to the first Youth Summit to talk about ideas and plans. There will be a follow-up meeting to the first Youth Summit in April.

### **On May 19-21, 2011, The Eastern Pennsylvania 225th Annual Conference convenes back at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks, PA.**

The theme for our Conference – Journeying with the Poor - is one of the four foci of The United Methodist Church and is particularly relevant to these difficult times through which we as a world-wide church are journeying. Here's how to register:

1. **register on-line by April 30, 2011**, by logging in to our website at [www.epaumc.org](http://www.epaumc.org). Registering on-line allows you to use a charge card – and saves

you time and postage. You will receive a confirmation of your registration.

2. Complete and **mail your registration form by April 8, 2011** to: Annual Conference Registrar, PO Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482.

### **Conference Youth Rally Sat. May 21, 2011 9am-5pm @ Oaks Convention Center**

A day set aside for youth to experience: GAMES FUN GREAT MUSIC FOOD WORKSHOPS MISSIONS ALL GROUNDED in what Matters Most: Bible, Worship, Fellowship and Prayer. Back By Popular Demand, an INSPIRED Speaker: Pastor Shawn McBride has the skill, integrity and passion to effectively communicate God's truth to today's generation of young people. God has empowered him with the Holy Spirit and has given him the ability to inspire, challenge, motivate, relate to and encourage youth. \$15 per person in advance \$20 at the door. Register online at [www.epaumc.org](http://www.epaumc.org) by May 16

### **NOMADS – The Daugherty's**

Hank and Laura Daugherty have been traveling in their RV around the country since March 9. They arrived safely in Macon, GA on March 12th. There they are working on the Methodist Children's home to repair lattice work, fix the decks, painting, electrical, plumbing and landscaping. Please pray for their safety as they offer themselves to serve in this way. Next they will be going to Sacramento, NM to serve at Sacramento Methodist Assembly by helping them with some wainscoting repairs to gazebos and picnic areas, electrical work and misc. other upgrades. They plan to return to Pennsylvania on May 23. Thank you for your generous gas money offering.

### **Without Jesus ...**

Without the risen Savior in our hearts, life is like:

- A chocolate Easter Bunny — empty on the inside;
- An Easter lily — it soon withers and dries up;
- An unopened Easter card — a message of love unclaimed;
- A bag of jellybeans — sugary and sweet but lacking substance.

—David Patterson



September 9-10 at the Wells Fargo Center

Weekend event includes: Fri 10am-3:30pm, 7-10pm and Sat 9am-5pm

Includes boxed lunch both days.

To Sign up for Women of Faith Online, please visit:

<http://gps.womenoffaith.com/>

- In the blue "Looking for a Group" section in the middle, click on "Find a Group"
- In the Group Finder, enter "**Willow Grove UMC**" under "Name/Keyword" and click "search"
- After clicking on the Willow Grove UMC link, click on "password" and enter "**WGUMC**" in the space provided.
- Complete the registration page, being sure to include your e-mail address and cell phone number (helps the group stay in contact both before and during the event) and press SUBMIT.
- This will generate an e-mail to Kim Schwalje, the group leader. After she approves you, a pay button will appear by your name and you can then begin making payments. Our cost for tickets is the reduced group rate of \$89, which includes 2 days of Women of Faith sessions and lunch both days.

**Note that you don't have to pay the entire \$89 at once, but you must be paid in full by mid-June.**

If you'd prefer to pay by check, that's fine. Please make checks payable to "**Women of Faith**".

If you get stuck or have questions (payment or otherwise), please call Kim – 267-939-5933 or e-mail ([kimberly\\_schwalje@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberly_schwalje@hotmail.com))



# Fellowship News

The newsletter of  
**Willow Grove United Methodist Church**  
34 N. York Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090-3422

Phone: 215-659-3232

Fax: 215-659-7817

E-Mail: Willowg1@verizon.net

Web Site: [www.gbgn-umc.org/wgumc](http://www.gbgn-umc.org/wgumc)

Rev. Cynthia Skripak – Pastor  
Gayle Wieand - Director of Music Ministry  
Kathleen Harrod - Organist  
Tom Gardner - Coordinator of Youth Ministry  
Amy Gardner - Administrative Assistant



Sent with a prayer!

9:30 am - Sunday School

8:15 am & 10:45 am - Sunday Worship Services

(Return Service Requested)

Willow Grove, PA 19090-3422

34 N. York Road  
Non-Profit Organization  
Willow Grove United Methodist Church

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Horsham, PA  
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