



WILLOW GROVE
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

OCT/NOV 2015

“Who do people say that we are?”

In a recent scripture lesson shared in worship we heard Jesus ask of his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" To his question one disciple responded, "John the Baptist", another "Elijah", and still others, "one of the prophets." Then Jesus turned to them again and asked, "And who do you say that I am?" To which Peter, in his seemingly ever-anxious, star-pupil way shouts, "You are the Christ!"

In just a few short weeks on October 17, District Superintendent Tracy Bass will be with us for our Annual Charge Conference. At this meeting he will ask us very similar questions: Who do we say that Jesus is? How has the presence and spirit of Jesus taken hold and grown in our lives and fellowship? How do we, as WGUMC, radiate this presence and spirit of Jesus - and how do we do so, in such a way that this presence and spirit is known and spoken of by others? In what ways are we planning to continue to share God's grace, mercy and forgiveness with others? And how will we do this with new persons, expanding our mission and ministry into new places?

Such questions are not questions I can answer for you, or, as your leader, on my own. These are questions that get at the heart of examining our relationship and spiritual walk with Jesus both individually and collectively, and then, collectively addressing how we are called to be Jesus' pupils and protégés in this time and in this place.

How is it with your soul?

Pastor Lorelei

WGUMC ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE MEETING
with District Superintendent Tracy Bass
Saturday, October 17
1:00pm - Staff/Parish Relations Committee / 1:15pm - Charge Conference

Agenda includes:

- 1.) **2014-2015 Ministry and Mission Year-in-Review Dialogue**
 - Is There Evidence of Spiritual Growth among Members since the last Charge Conference?
 - Who do people say that you are?
 - What Message(s) have we gotten out to the general public about who we are? How have we done this?
 - What are the plans in the coming months/year to minister to new people for Christ?
 - What are your hopes for the church in the coming days, weeks, months, years?
- 2.) **Summary by Pastor**
- 3.) **Staff-Parish Relations Committee 2016 Compensation Report**
- 4.) **Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations Report)**
- 5.) **Recommendations for Lay Servant Ministry or other Candidates**
- 6.) **Other Business**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

	Ushers	Greeters	Altar Flowers
Oct 4 19th Sunday after Pentecost / World Communion Sunday	Emily Graupner, Ken Graupner, Kim Hunt Ed Skilton	Doris Hardcastle Stephen Krall	<i>In loving memory of Polly Woehr, given by her husband, Bill.</i>
Oct 11 20th Sunday after Pentecost / Marston & Robinson Baptisms	Charles Sievers, John McCarthy, Shirley Lupton Ruth Roberts	Shirley Lupton Terry Crawford	<i>In loving memory of Mitchell Davis, given by his family.</i> <i>In loving memory of Graham Pugh, given by his wife, Jean, and family.</i>
Oct 18 21st Sunday after Pentecost / Laity Sunday	Robert Mathers, Susan Mathers, Eliane Carr Brad Cooper	Paul Dorozinsky	<i>In loving memory of my parents, Allan and Ina McCracken, given by Lillian Brandt.</i>
Oct 25 22nd Sunday after Pentecost	Paul Hyde, Paul Dorozinsky, Stephen Krall Doris Hardcastle	Charles Sievers Carolyn Gwin	<i>In loving memory of Howard Short, Sr., given by Howard Short, Jr..</i> <i>In loving memory of our parents, Thomas and Ethel Ann Paist, given</i>
Nov 1 All Saints Day / Harvest Home Food Collection	Colin Weller, Keith Weller, Janice Weller, Brad Cooper	Paul Hyde Nancy Durchsprung	<i>In loving memory of John Avery, given by his niece, Doris Lewis.</i>
Nov 8 24th Sunday after Pentecost / Harvest Home Food Collection	Howard Short, Jr. Paul Dorozinsky, Shirley Liddle, Carolyn Gwin	Linda Weller Kim Hunt	<i>No flower orders for this week.</i>
Nov 15 25th Sunday after Pentecost / Harvest Home Food Collection	Emily Graupner, Ken Graupner, Kim Hunt Ed Skilton	Shirley Liddle Jane Sharman	<i>In loving memory of Edward Whittle, given by his daughter, Janice Whittle.</i>
Nov 22 Christ the King Sunday	Charles Sievers, John McCarthy, Shirley Lupton Ruth Roberts	Jean Yates Brad Cooper	<i>In loving memory of Dr. Herbert S. Law, given by Joan, Kim, and Lori.</i>
Nov 29 1st Sunday of Advent	Robert Mathers, Susan Mathers, Eliane Carr Brad Cooper	Jean Pugh Kim Hunt	<i>In loving memory of George Knauss, given by his wife, Dorothy, and family.</i>

PAST EVENTS

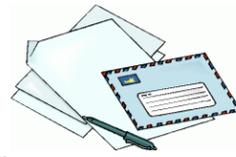
CONGRATULATIONS! Shirley Liddle was recently honored at a reception at Arcadia University in recognition of her contributions to the Athletic Department during her tenure as Chair. The Athletic Office at the University will be named in her honor.

LETTERS TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear Church Family

I thank you for all your concerns and prayers getting me through this operation. It's good to know that God is on our side and guiding us through each day. Thanks much.

Love, **Alf Sharman**



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all your loving support and prayers, during this long journey with our mother, Martha Boehm. The visits, the gifts, the many cards through her illness, and now even after her passing, all such heartfelt blessings, that will continue to carry us through the next chapter of our lives.

Grateful Thanks,

In Christian Love, The Boehm/Weller Family

UPCOMING EVENTS

◇ **Sunday, October 4**

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy. What would it look like if the church today imitated Jesus' affirmation of the full dignity and God-given potential of all women and men—especially those who've historically been assigned to the world's margins? On **World Communion Sunday** your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.

Equipping Disciples Like Mary Grace to Serve in Jesus' Name

As a small child, Mary Grace Galapon labored as a housemaid in exchange for food and clothing. Yet, allowed to attend church, she found hope. As a member of The United Methodist Church, your giving on World Communion Sunday has allowed this deaconess, of the Mindanao Philippines Annual Conference, to pursue an education that is now changing her community as she works to eliminate poverty. Mary Grace's work, and the impact of hundreds more like her, are possible because you give.

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Congregation Announcements

Baptism

* *Reagan Sloane Creswick, 9/20/15*

Death

* *Martha E. Boehm, 9/13/15*



(Baptism of Reagan Creswick into the UMC family)



SUMMER CAMP SUMMARIES FOR 2015 - Themed "Power Up! Living"

Carson-Simpson Farm: Total registrations was 1628, with 54 summer staff, 3 year-round staff, and about 5 volunteers, along with many hours of volunteering by the Mentors (oldest members of the Cornerstone middle-school campers).

Highlights: traditional dress-up days; CSF Gives Back Project held with the Jenkintown Food Ministry program, Loaves & Fishes; 3rd year Disciples tended the garden at Lighthouse Fellowship UMC in Glenside and donated fresh food items, along with non-perishables that campers collected; Water Carnival; Puppets; Quiver Farm visit; Family Night; Silent Auction (about 200+ people attended); Around the World Week; Disciple Retreat overnight at Pocono Plateau with 52 in attendance; and the Farewell Carnival. This is a brief summary – so much more happened during the 10 weeks of camp. The beauty and addiction to camping is always the day-to-day little things, the relationships, and how the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of children and staff. We serve an awesome God!

Camp Innabah: In the 86th year of ministry, we were blessed with 531 campers who attended at least one of the 30 different camp sessions during the 6-week season. Some camping sessions were: Adventure Time (half-week for children who completed grades 1-3); Parents & Me (half-week for one or both parents and their children 8 years & younger); Grandparents & Me (half-week for one or both grandparents and their grandchildren ages 5-12); Fishing Camp; Junior High & Senior High Archery; Night Camp (week-long session where sleeping takes place during the day and traditional camp activities take place all night long); and Challenge Camps (half-week and week-long sessions for individuals with intellectual disabilities, ages 12-99).

During daily Bible lessons, the focus was on the Fruit of the Spirit and learning and experiencing the true and never-ending power to live as Christ. Many traditions were experienced, such as songs, stories, games & activities, and just being at Innabah with fellow Christians of all ages. The Holy Spirit made its presence known to all here at Innabah and everyone went away recharged and renewed in their faith.

An "unofficial" competition took place over the course of the summer, as most groups caught (& released) crayfish during their creek walks. Each group had about 25 minutes and averaged about 30 crayfish. The last group of the summer, Grandparents & Me, caught 62 crayfish!!

Blessings of the summer included Challenge campers enjoying canoeing, singing on hayrides, and cooling off in the pool. The Junior High and Senior High camps worked together to solve problems and accomplish tasks as a group while mastering the Challenge course.

The highlight of the summer for Director Michael Hyde was being able to call Innabah home and watching his two boys absolutely enjoy being able to live at camp. They both grew so much as people and learned so many camp songs, and continued singing them at home once camp was over. This is a true testament to the power and the love of Christ. God is good...all the time!

Gretna Glen: 1193 campers were served in the faith-based overnight sessions and the day camp programs held during 10 weeks of camping. Also, 298 campers from our Camp Can Do Sibling & Patient Cancer programs enjoyed Gretna, as the 25th year of this special program took place. Muscular Dystrophy Association Camp (MDA) had 21 campers and the Easter Seals Mini-Program had 12 campers.

New program opportunities this summer were a new inflatable movie screen, new campfire site, Slip-n-Slide Baseball Diamond, Soggy Obstacle Course, Sudsy Bubble Waterslide, and a swingzebo for peaceful and spiritual moments in the woods. Special events for some camps included trips to Blue Marsh Lake, Camelbeach Waterpark, Lake Tobias Wildlife Park, and Hersheypark. The farm program, with 12 animals and 5 gardens, continued this summer and was on-site, allowing the campers to experience feeding the calf and other furry animals and helping to tend the garden and eat the delicious foods.

During the summer, all campers and staff dug deep into the Holy Spirit, learning that we are "Powered Up!" when we are living in the spirit because Jesus promised us peace after He died on the cross. Studies lead were on the Fruits of the Spirit, Pentecost, courage, and having peace wherever we go.

Pocono Plateau: Pocono Plateau had an awesome summer camp. 620 overnight campers experienced the Gospel of Jesus in a loving Christian community. Some of our outstanding camp events included Mommy & Me, a three day camp for moms and their children (ages 3-7); Pioneer Camp where children experienced a week of pioneer activities; TrailBlazers Camp with a western theme and horseback riding; and youth camps that included whitewater rafting, musical performances and a trip to an amusement park.

COMMITTEE AND MINISTRY NEWS AND NOTES

DOERS GROUP

By Blanche Erwin

The Doers will meet on Thursday, October 8th at 11:00am in the Church lounge. We will have devotions and a business meeting followed by an early lunch and Bingo. Bring a sandwich or salad for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Visitors and new members 55 and over are always welcome. We will also meet on Thursday, November 12th when we plan to make pillows for the heart patients at Abington Memorial Hospital.

FOOD MINISTRY

By Laura Daugherty and Kathy Harrod

We began the new **Friendship Meal** season on September 20th, saying goodbye to summer and hello to fall. On October 18th the theme will be "Autumn Harvest". Future dates in 2015 are November 15th and December 20th. Should we experience bad weather on any of these dates, cancellation will be announced on KYW Newsradio and on the web site CBSphilly.com.

The **Breakfast in a Bag** program provides hot and cold cereal, juice, hot chocolate, fruit, granola bars, and milk (that does not require refrigeration until it is opened). Between 25 and 30 people avail themselves of this service.

We continue to supply the office with **brown bag lunches**. When people come to the church office in need of assistance, the office staff is able to meet their immediate needs. These bags consist of a non-perishable prepackaged luncheon item, a bottle of water, and a dessert that does not require refrigeration. If you wish to help with this project please feel free to contact Kim Schwalje for more information.

The **"Friendship Freezer"** holds emergency meals for anyone who needs them. Anyone may add to or take from this collection of meals at any time. They are housed in the lower basket and in the lower door shelf in the freezer. A sign in/out book is located near the coffee pots. If you add a meal, please list the **ingredients** on the container and the **date** it was placed in the freezer. Then list the meal in the book, along with the date. If you have need of a meal, feel free to take one and cross it off the list in the book. No names are necessary.

FOOD MINISTRY , Cont'd.

As with the brown bag lunches, there is always a need for these frozen meals. So please feel free to cook an extra serving some evening and donate it to the freezer.

Your donations of luscious food, love offerings, prayers and your presence are what keep this ministry running. We are a mission of the entire church body. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

Gradually, we expand our service to our neighbors. If you want to have a positive effect on someone's life, do something rewarding, and also have fun, come and join our amazing, talented, loving, fun crew! Just see Laura Daugherty, Hank Daugherty, Kathy Harrod, or anyone else who is involved. We will put you on our email list and get you started!

MUSIC MINISTRY

By Gayle Wieand



Choirs are in full swing! JOIN US! Making a Joyful Noise is fun, AND choir members report a feeling of a more intimate connection with the scriptures when they sing the words! Also, we really need you. Although current members are all young-at-heart, we need some chronologically younger singers! The tradition of excellent sacred music at Willow Grove Methodist is long-standing. Step up! Honor the tradition and help make a new joyful noise!

Festival Choir - Immediately following church on Sunday's until 12:15pm for those who can't make the Thursday night commitment.

Bells of Praise: New time, **Thursdays at 6:40pm** - (Come at 6:30 and help set up!)

Chancel Choir: New time, **Thursdays at 7:30pm.**

We will sing gospel selections, pieces by the great masters of sacred choral music, contemporary artist arrangements, world music and great hymns of the church. Join us. See Gayle, Kathy or any choir member for more information.



COMMITTEE AND MINISTRY NEWS AND NOTES

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRIES

By Blanche Erwin

Harvest Home Food Collection will take place on Sundays, November 1st, 8th and 15th. The food will be sent to Devereux United Methodist Church, located at 26th and Allegheny Ave. in Philadelphia. They will make baskets for Thanksgiving for those in need in the community. Items needed are soups, rice, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti sauce, tuna fish, canned meats and stews, cans of fruit, applesauce, and fruit juice. Dented cans of food and open packages cannot be accepted. The food can be placed on the Harvest table inside the front church door.

Giving Tree - Please bring new gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, underwear and socks (for men, women and especially CHILDREN) on Sundays, December 6th and 13th. The items will be given to needy families in our area and Philadelphia. Help keep someone warm this winter!



TRUSTEE TIDBITS

By Hank Dougherty

This summer has been rather quiet giving us a short break in our problem solving. Nevertheless, there are some issues that pop up. After several delays caused by weather and equipment repairs, The Cross and Flame sign has finally been mounted on the bell tower. We thank Alf and Jane Sharman, and family for their generous memorial gift making this witness to our community possible.

The warm summer weather has brought some air conditioning issues. It has been necessary to replace the A/C in the Pastor's office, and in one of the classrooms, which has all been accomplished. This is an ongoing issue in a building the size of ours. We have at least a dozen window units and, of course, the central units for the Sanctuary, Chapel and Lounge.

Leases have been evaluated for the New Year and are in the process of being finalized. This is a delicate process as any change requires mutual understanding and agreement. It is necessary to have the cooperation of all parties.

TRUSTEE TIDBITS, Cont'd.

Cemetery plots have been made available to members of our congregation. They are available to anyone in need of them. Please contact the Church Office to make necessary arraignments.

A Fall **"All Church Work Day"** is being planned for November 14th. You will hear more about this in the near future. Use the Yellow Slips found on the second floor bulletin board to notify us of any situation that needs correction in our building or grounds. Thank you for all your help and cooperation.

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES FOR DEC/ JAN IS NOV 10, 2015!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

By Blanche Erwin

The **Susanna Circle** will meet on the third Monday, October 19th and November 16th. October 19th we'll fill boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Fisher's Pot Pie Sale - Saturday, November 14th, pick-up 9:45am - 11:00am. Order forms will be available beginning Sunday, October 11th. All orders must be received no later than Wednesday, November 11th. Proceeds will be given to United Methodist Women Mission Projects.

Save Your Coins For Missions - Deposit pennies and other coins in the bowl in the Narthex. They really do add up! "For if you only add a little and do this often - soon that little will become great."

Save Box Top labels and UPC Symbols (from Campbell Soups, Beans, Franco American and Pepperidge Farm products). These will be given to our local schools. The box tops and UPC symbols can be placed in the UMW box in the narthex.

Please NOTE - The United Methodist Women will **NO LONGER be collecting the METAL FLIP TOPS** from soda cans, etc. for the Ronald McDonald House.



FREE FRIENDSHIP MEALS for 2015-2016

Willow Grove United Methodist Church, 34 N. York Road, Willow Grove

5:00 p.m. each day (dates may change) – Some months will have special activities/entertainment! Everyone is welcome to enjoy these free suppers!

September 20, 2015 – Smorgasbord: anything & everything

October 18, 2015 – Harvest Foods: pumpkins, apples, fruits, ground beef

November 15, 2015 – SoupFest: soups, bread, desserts

December 20, 2015 – Christmas dinner: ham, potatoes, vegetables, desserts

January 17, 2016 – Winter foods: soups, stews, casseroles, desserts

February 21, 2016 – Valentine’s Day: red, white, & pink foods

March 20, 2016 – St. Patrick’s Day: Irish food, maybe green & orange foods

April 17, 2016 – Easter & New Life: ham, potatoes, vegetables, desserts

May 15, 2016 – Spring: fresh, light, colorful foods

June 2015 (church picnic) – Summer: picnic food at WGUMC church picnic

July 17, 2016 – Patriotism: red, white, & blue food

August, 2016 – No Meal, Vacation month

September 18, October 16, November 20, & December 18, 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

(continued from page 3)

Will You Equip World-Changers?

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.” Will you give generously on World Communion Sunday to make education and vocational impact possible for more students, like Mary Grace?

◇ **Wednesday, October 14**

Bishop’s Day on the District - Resident

Bishop Peggy Johnson will hold a meeting, open to both clergy and laity, on the East District as one of six such meetings. Further details to follow.



◇ **Saturday, November 14**

Adjourned Session of Annual Conference - The 2015 **Adjourned Session** of the Eastern PA Annual Conference, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14, will feature prayer, worship and Holy Conferencing, as members hear reports and vote on the 2016 conference budget and resolutions not dealt with at the regular annual session in May. They will also vote again for 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates. The session will take place from 8:30 to 3:30 PM at Bethany UMC’s Macungie campus, at 3801 Brookside Road, Macungie, PA, near Allentown.

The conference will also receive an offering during the session for its participation in the United Methodist Church’s “Imagine No Malaria” ongoing global health awareness and fundraising campaign. Churches are urged to send contributions for the offering and to engage in creative efforts to raise awareness and support in the denomination’s fight against the deadly disease of malaria.



Willow Grove United Methodist Church

Non-Profit Organization

34 N. York Road

Willow Grove, PA 19090-3422

(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)

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PERMIT NO. 2644

EARLY REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

a force **OUTSIDE** the fortress

Saturday November 7, 2015

Schedule of Events

1:30 pm	Registration
2:00 pm	Welcome and Keynote Presentation
3:15 pm	Ministry Workshops
4:45 pm	Refreshments Book signing by Mike Slaughter
5:25 pm	Closing Worship

12th ANNUAL PLANTING SEEDS FOR GROWTH

Hopewell United Methodist Church presents **Mike Slaughter** KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Register soon! Register now! Seating is limited. TO REGISTER: <http://www.hopewellumc.org/planting-seeds>

The newsletter of :

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Rev. Lorelei Toombs—Pastor
 Rev. Jane McCarthy—Deacon
 Gayle Weand—Director of Music Ministry
 Kathleen Harrod—Organist
 Elizabeth Daly—Administrative Assistant
 Kelly Krall—Newsletter Editor



FELLOWSHIP NEWS