



# The Spotlight

Richmond United Methodist Church

8538 Delaware Drive - Bangor, PA 18013

Pastor: Samuel Kofi Ashley

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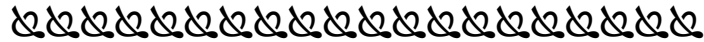
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December 2010

## Prepare for Advent 2010

Dear Friends:

As Christians we believe that the season of Advent should and can be a meaningful time for “the people called Methodists.” The Season of Advent begins the New Church Year with the expectation that Jesus Christ our Lord will come again. We also take the time to remember the birth of the Savior Jesus Christ over 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. The word “Advent” means “coming” and “anticipation” so we as Christians need to prepare for the unexpected arrival of our Lord and Savior.

It is important to not rush into the season and be too caught up in the commercials, blow out sales and all the yearly pressures the holidays bring. We have to find time in our hearts and minds to reflect on these four weeks that precede Christmas. We ought to prepare for the unexpected blessing and promise of Jesus’ second coming, which could be anytime. We should never forget that although Jesus was born as a little baby over 2000 years ago, He is not coming back as a baby anymore. The Scripture says He will descend with the angels at the sound of the trumpet with power and glory. Jesus will return to judge the quick (living) and the dead. He is coming back for His own. Hence, the season of Advent invites us to be ready. It is one of the spiritual alarm bells calling us to wake and be ready.

So, as people of God I would encourage us to find time in the midst of our shopping, schedules, plans, and busyness to prepare a place for the Lord as well. As we prepare our homes with the decorations, the Christmas tree, with the tinsel, the baking of the cookies and all the rest, we cannot forget to prepare our hearts for the Lord. We do so by finding time to join in worship, as we sing the amazing carols, by studying the word of God, and by praying and serving the Lord.

As a pastor, I invite all of you to come and join us for this season of celebration. We have missed so many of you in the Richmond Church and hope to see you around this time. We also appreciate those of you who give your yearly gifts at this time. These gifts come in handy to offset our expenses and determine whether we break even or not. If the Lord has blessed you with the means to give a gift please do so generously.

There are so many events planned for the holidays here at Richmond, and the whole community is cordially invited to join in the activities. Please take the time to check all the upcoming events in the Newsletter. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight services will be held on Friday December 24 at 7 p.m. and then with communion at 8:30 p.m. The Worship Committee is making an extra

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### **Prepare for Advent 2010 cont.**

effort to have luminaries and beautiful decorations around the Church for worship. Please invite visiting family and friends for worship on Christmas Eve and during the Season of Advent.

Wishing you all a peaceful advent, a Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year. Enjoy all the season's blessings from our Lord Jesus Christ and take time to give thanks.

Peace,

*Pastor Kofi*

### **RUMC Holiday FUN & GIFT Giving Event**

Looking for an opportunity to have FUN, Eat Out, Do some Christmas Shopping, fill your heart, and give to RUMC by donating some items?

Here's the plan but we NEED ALL families to help make it successful. This really sounds like a great day!

- Open Doors....worship service at 8:30 and 10:30 in our beautifully decorated sanctuary, with food for the soul; Pastor Kofi delivering one of his outstanding holiday messages.
- Covered Dish --Our church family will join together for a Christmas Covered Dish following the second service, on December 12, starting about 11:45 AM. RUMC really does have excellent cooks who will be sharing their favorite holiday foods. Bring place settings for your family and a dish or two to place on the serving table.
- Donate some items for the Chinese Auction (holiday decorations, snack gift basket, movie night basket, a gift received that perhaps you do not want/need, gift certificate, bird house, toys, gift type items, wooden item.....any

items sharing your talents. Since all items will be donated, all profits from the auction will go to the church, helping us to meet our year-end budget. In addition to your family donating some items (be creative), help us to get donations from others you have contact with if possible. Items can be checked in/contributed from 9:30 to noon.

- Go Shopping. Chinese Auction will be open from 1:00 to 1:45 PM. All items will have a paper attached giving an estimated value and then spaces for bidding. To bid, list your name and a bid. At 1:45, bidding stops and the top bidder's name is circled. Papers are collected, items and payment are completed. You can do some Christmas shopping which will benefit the church. You get a gift and the church gets a gift!
- Holiday Musical Event in the sanctuary begins at 2:30 featuring four talented groups: Jon Strack, Bangor Select Choir, Sarah Ashley, and Michael Sullivan. A love offering to support the church 2011 Summer Ghana Mission Trip will be taken at this event.
- Live Nativity – Last night to stop and drive by the RUMC live nativity at the farm of Brian and Dawn Brown, Route 611, Mount Bethel. Hours are from 5 to 8 PM with hot chocolate and cookies at the end.

Invite friends, neighbors, relatives looking for a church family to come to RUMC.

### **Christmas Eve Services**

Friday, December 24, 2010

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held on Friday December 24 at 7 p.m. and with Communion at 8:30 p.m. Please join us for a wonderful time of singing and celebration of joy!

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

### December Birthdays:



- 02 Michael George  
Alesandra Mitsos
- 03 Jim Adams II  
Judy Voorhees
- 07 Jeremy Schafer
- 09 Jean Best
- 12 Cole Zungolo  
Taylor Willever
- 13 Marlin Evans
- 14 Karen Bodine
- 15 Jaclyn Hess
- 17 Maxwell McCarty
- 18 Karl Mann
- 19 Anne Dertinger
- 20 Tiffann Fox
- 21 Dawn Olson  
Bo Meyers
- 26 Danielle Gannon  
Andrew Beers  
Wade Hilbert
- 29 Jim Beers
- 30 Jan Berry  
Kathryn Hontz
- 31 Brian Ligouri  
Evan Josephson  
Tom Daly

### December Anniversaries:



- 08 Russell and Jill Hock
- 11 Mark and Jennifer Absalom  
Jason and Staci Meyers
- 22 Rik and Julie Medic
- 23 Robert and Dawn Olson

## **Birthday & Anniversaries List Changes**

If you see a name is missing from the Birthday & Anniversary lists published in the newsletter or see any other corrections that need to be made, contact the church office and the newsletter editor with the changes.

## **Articles for January Newsletter**

Articles for the December issue of The Spotlight are due by Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, to Chris Clark. Articles can be submitted by phone (610-253-7008), by E-Mail (Murdock@alumni.cmu.edu), or by mail (15 Bunker Hill Court; Easton, PA 18040).



## **Future Newsletter Due Dates!**

Article submission due dates for early 2011:

Issue:	Articles due by:
February	Friday, January 21 <sup>st</sup>
March	Friday, February 18 <sup>th</sup>
April	Friday, March 25 <sup>th</sup>
May	Friday, April 22 <sup>nd</sup>

## **RUMC Angel Tree**

Once again this Christmas, we hope to help out members of our own Church family by providing gifts for the children. In the Narthex is a Christmas Tree bulletin board with items that are needed. Please remove the tags with the present(s) that you would like to buy and return the wrapped gift(s) to the Church Office no later than December 19, 2010. Please make sure to include a tag saying what the gift is, whether it is for a boy or girl and the age. Thank you so much for bringing joy into the lives of our children during this Christmas season. God bless and Merry Christmas!

## **Mission Trip Update**

### **Destination 2011: Ghana, Africa**

Please, kindly support us in any way you can with as many of these items as you can, while we plan on this mission to Ghana, Africa. Please remember to take the list with you as you do your shopping, pick a few of these items for this important mission. Kindly remember the children in Africa who are suffering due to their inability to get simple cold medicines and other basic necessities that we take for granted here in the United States.

We will be collecting the items like soap, toothpaste, brushes, shampoos, pens, and pencils starting immediately. For the medicines which are geared toward our health fair we will start collecting that later to make sure these medicines do not expire. . Your contribution and support is greatly appreciated. May God bless you richly for touching lives with the love of God.

Also if you are interested in going on the trip, please register with Pastor Kofi, so we can add you to the group planning process and get you the necessary information.

Our second group meeting was very successful. Our travel date is now set for July 14-28, 2011.

Next meeting: December 6, 2010 at 7 p.m. to discuss budget and other travel plans.

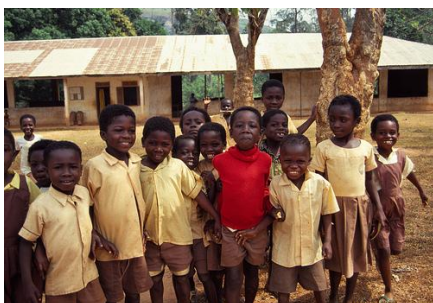
So far, a dozen people have expressed their interest to go on this Mission. Registration for the Mission Trip will begin on December 6, 2010 with filling an Application Form and making a \$150 non-refundable deposit. Please do not wait till the last minute. If you are interested please contact Pastor Kofi for details. Please pray for this Mission Trip and all the Missionaries who will be going to Ghana and help us to make a difference in the lives of children in that part of the world.

### Items Needed:

(Drop-off Big box is in the Narthex)

- Vicks Children's Nyquil Cold and Flu
- Triaminic Daytime Cold and Cough (non-drowsy)
- Triaminic Nighttime Cold and Cough Syrup Purple
- Dimetapp Children's Cold and Cough Elixir
- Dimetapp Children's Night time Flu Syrup
- Children's Tylenol Plus Cold
- Children's Tylenol Plus Cold and Stuffy Nose
- Children's Tylenol Multi-Symptom Cold
- Arthritis Syrup for Children
- Children's Advil - Fever Reducer
- Vicks Pediatric 44E Cough and Chest Congestion Relief Formula
- Vicks Pediatric 44M Cough and Cold Relief
- Dimetapp Children's Plus Cough Infant Drops (non-drowsy)
- Little Colds Decongestant Plus Cough (non-drowsy)
- Robitussin CF Alcohol-Free Cough Syrup (non-drowsy)
- Robitussin DM
- Triaminic Soft Chews Cough and Runny Nose
- Triaminic Chest Yellow
- Sudafed Children's Nasal Decongestant Chewable
- Children's Tylenol Plus Cough and Runny Nose
- Children's Tylenol Cough and Sore Throat
- Band aids
- Cotton balls
- Rubber Gloves
- Q-tips
- Original Neosporin
- Neosporin Pain Relief

- Triple antibiotic ointment
- St. Joseph's Aspirin for Children
- Bayer Chewable Children's Aspirin
- Children's Tylenol
- Johnson's Baby Powder
- Johnson's Medicated Baby Powder with Aloe
- 1 Portable EKG Machine/Monitor (table top or handheld)
- 1 Portable Spirometer (table top or handheld) with extra mouthpieces
- Toothbrushes
- Crest Oral-B toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Colgate toothpaste
- Aquafresh toothpaste
- Crest toothpaste
- Listerine (travel size or spray or pocket strips)
- Ivory soap bars
- Dove soap bars
- Dial soap bars
- Olay soap bars
- Johnson Head-to-Toe baby wash
- L'Oreal Shampoos
- Suave Shampoos
- Johnson Baby Shampoo
- Combs
- Small personal hand mirror
- Flip Flops, all sizes for boys and girls
- Purell Hand sanitizer
- Pens and Pencils
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Coloring books
- Bibles!



### **Bridge Ministry**

The Bridge Ministry is staying in the present location on South 2nd Street, Easton, Pa. Another church purchased the building from the Methodist Church and decided to keep the Bridge Ministry. I guess God does answer prayer!

The next date will be the second week of February, Wednesday the 9th, 2011. As far as donations of clothing is concerned I have been informed they are accepting the following items: men's large or extra large coats, trousers, shirts, boots, shoes, women's pants, blouses, coats, and blankets, sweaters, etc. The items should be work clothing oriented as opposed to dress clothing, which is not the type of clothing these folks would wear. Please put any donation on the church stage and we will deliver them in February. We thank everyone who helped with Bridge Ministry this past week. We do appreciate all your efforts to help the poor and needy families.

Anyone wishing to come and help serve at the Bridge Ministry or to prepare food should contact Charlie Hentz at E-mail address [dcjitney@hotmail.com](mailto:dcjitney@hotmail.com). Thank you for helping in the missions and service to the community.

### **Confirmation Class 2011 Update**

Confirmation 2011 will start January 30, 2011 instead of January 23. We must have all participating children registered by January 9 so we can get all the study materials ready by start of the program. The total cost of confirmation is \$110. This includes \$10 for the study book, \$90 for the Weekend Confirmation Retreat at Gretna Glen, and \$10 for additional study materials. Checks should be made payable to Richmond Church.

## Come and See RUMC's LIVE Nativity



- When: December 4,5,11,12 -- First two weekends (Saturday and Sunday) in December
- Time: 5:00-8:00 PM
- Where: 1693 South Delaware Drive, Mount Bethel, (Route 611); Farm of Brian and Dawn Brown
- What: Stay in your car and drive thru the farm looking at the live Nativity. Receive some hot chocolate and cookies at the end of the tour.
- Cost: A love gift offering of your choice. Donations will help support the church 2011 Mission Trip to Ghana
- Who: Spread the Word! All are welcome. Receive the gift, the reason for the season.

## Christmas Poinsettias

It's hard to believe, but Christmas time will soon be here! Please order your Poinsettias as early as possible. Colors and prices are the same as last year: Red, White, Pink and Marble at \$6.00 per plant. Order forms will be in the narthex, or call Gloria Weaver (610-588-4134) for help. PLEASE make checks payable to the Church.

## Christmas Program

The Christmas Children's program will be held Sunday December 19 at 6 p.m. at Thomas Hall. All the children in the church and families are encouraged to bring their children to Church so they can participate. For further questions about the program please email or call Jennifer Hocking at 610-588-6414 or email Jennifer.e.hocking@gmail.com.

## Gift Card Fund Raiser

Within the next few weeks, we will be announcing a gift card fundraiser to help support the costs of our Ghana trip.

You can purchase the gift card (hundreds of store options available) for whatever amount you want; so you get what you pay for. The plus is that the church will get a percentage back.

Cards are available for as low as \$10 or for big ticket items like hotels and vacations! Details are available from Dawn Olson & Robin Hughes.

## Tin Bucket Missionary Update

God works through tears...Last week, Paige, the international student who is living with me and my roommates came home in tears. Earlier that day, she dropped her laptop and after taking it to the Apple store, she was told it would cost \$700 to fix the screen. She doesn't come from a wealthy family, so to fix it or buy a new computer her family would sacrifice a lot; she feels guilty for that. It's interesting how God allows circumstances to mount and build to bring people to the end of themselves and help them realize they NEED God.

Would you pray for Paige, that she would recognize her need for Jesus? I feel like the Lord has put it on my heart to ask Him to provide a computer for Paige. It would be so neat to see God turn her tears into JOY at His provision. Would you pray that through HIS provision that Paige would surrender her heart to Jesus?

Thank you for your partnership in prayer! I believe God is using us together to further His Kingdom!

Laboring on the campus,

*Lisa Olson*

University of Washington Navigators