



The Spotlight

Richmond United Methodist Church

8538 Delaware Drive - Bangor, PA 18013

Pastor: Samuel Kofi Ashley

Church Office: 610-588-7317

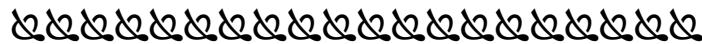
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September 2010

Summer Days Are Winding Down

We have almost come to the end of the summer and I know that some of us will be asking where the summer went. Some of us may have taken the opportunity to have some relaxation and rest. One of the blessings of our summer worship is the opportunity for the whole congregation to worship and fellowship together in one service. It is always the opportunity to spend some time with brothers and sisters who attend the “early” or “late” service. You may even find out who else is occupying “your pew.”

We will be going back to our regular Sunday two services—8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.—on September 19 and I am hoping all members will come back and join us for worship and other church-related activities.

We will kick off the fall with our annual Rally Day Church Picnic on September 12, at the Beers Parsonage as we welcome new members joining our Richmond Church Family. Starting this fall, once a month we hope to enjoy homemade cakes, coffee, and juices in Thomas Hall. We hope to use this meeting to encourage and build fellowship in our church.

In addition, we will begin our church-wide Bible Study called “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations.” This will be five weeks of prayer and spiritual practice for

our congregation, from Sunday September 12th through October 10th during the Sunday School hour. Please join us at 9:15 a.m. in Thomas Hall for this Bible Study. We hope to explore these five successful principles and implement some of these ideas at our Richmond church. Please come and participate. Sign up in the Narthex for a book, or call the Church Office to request one.

This fall we want to begin making our worship service and fellowship vibrant, thoughtful and exciting. Once again we need members to make the commitment to help in any way they can with their time, treasure and talents. We hope more people will join the choir and we need teachers who can help connect our young children to God through our Sunday School.

I hope members will step forward to help with our Christian Education program. Please let us continue to pray for the Richmond Church and we invite all our members to come and worship and participate.

May God Bless the Richmond Church and you as well.

Looking forward to seeing you around.

Pastor Kofi

Confirmation Class 2011

All Christians are called to make a profession of their faith in God. For young adults, this act of profession is called "Confirmation." Other denominations may call it something different. The process of becoming a member of the United Methodist Church involves two different steps.

The first step is through the Sacrament of Baptism. In the United Methodist Church, a person may be baptized as an infant and confirmed as an adolescent or adult. Baptism is a public declaration of God's love by the Holy Spirit. The United Methodist Church believes that "through Baptism we are initiated into Christ's Holy Church."

Confirmation, on the other hand, is an adolescent's personal response to God's love and grace which allows one to become a member of the Church.

I am very excited about Confirmation of 2011 because many of the youth have themselves told their parents they want to be confirmed. Our Confirmation Class is going to start in January and will end in May of 2011. Once again parents of youth who are in the sixth grade as well as adults who have not been confirmed should contact the Church Office at 610-588-7317 and give their names for registration.

I would encourage parents to start bringing their youth to Church. I am going to involve them in different activities such as serving as acolytes, greeters, ushers, reading scripture and in other areas they could offer their gifts.

Contemporary Service Change

Starting in October, the Contemporary Service will be moving to the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September Birthdays:



- 01 John Templin
- 02 Tyler Rutt
Jenna Fey
- 03 Alex Berry
- 06 Kathy Crafa
Woody Seas
- 07 Chris Clark
- 09 Don Voorhees
- 11 Theresa McEwen
- 12 Kyle Hester
- 13 Arielle Brigham
Heather Brigham
- 16 Richard Ott, Sr.
Betty Hill
- 17 Lakota McCarty
- 21 Alissa Sellers
- 23 Arla Jones
- 25 William Mann, Jr.
- 26 Jessica Kolba
- 27 Adam Josephson
- 30 Joan Hallett
Evan Brown

September Anniversaries:



- 04 Edward and Melissa Reimer
- 07 Mark and Jessica DeLorenzo
- 08 Craig and Patricia Hester
- 24 Shawn and Deborah Kollar
- 26 Lewis and Joan Kessler
James and Karen Bodine
Charles and Maria Dertinger

Birthday & Anniversaries List Changes

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

Articles for October Newsletter

Articles for the October issue of The Spotlight are due by Friday, September 24th, 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 the rest of 2010 & beginning 2011:

Issue:	Articles due by:
November	Friday, October 22 nd
December	Friday, November 19 th
January 2011	Friday, December 17 th
February 2011	Friday, January 21 st

Diabetes Walk

Most of us have been touched in one way or another by diabetes and childhood diabetes is on the rise. I am participating in a 5k walk on Oct 3 to raise funds for research and awareness of this devastating disease. If anyone would like to sponsor me for this walk, I would appreciate it and together we could make a difference in someone's life.

Thank you,

Marilyn Wolf

Thank You from the Mann Family

The family of Doris Mann would like to thank everyone who stayed for the Memorial Service for Ronnie Mann, the son of Doris Mann, held August 15, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. They really appreciated your support, and also for sharing in the luncheon that followed. Thanks for showing your love and care. God bless you!

2010 RUMC Directory

Our special picture directory with photos of our church family will be out soon! The draft has been reviewed and sent back for final printing. Once received, directories will be labeled by family name and all those who had their picture taken will receive a free copy.

We have purchased a limited number of extra copies. Cost per directory is \$10, with check payable to RUMC. A listing of all church members with addresses is listed in the back of the directory.

Rally Day Celebration 2010!

Sunday School will start on September 12th at 9:15 a.m. There will be one Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. followed by a covered dish picnic at the Beers Parsonage on 10868 N. Delaware Dr, Bangor, PA 18013. If it rains the picnic will be at the Church. Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be provided. We will return to two services 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. on September 19th. If you would like to bring a dish kindly sign-up in the Narthex so we do not have the same foods provided by everyone. Don't miss Rally Day 2010, and please invite a friend!

Richmond UMC Charge Conference 2010

Starting this year the Superintendent is doing Charge Conference in a new format. United Methodist Churches in the District will be holding Charge conferences together. This year Richmond UMC will be holding their Charge Conference at East Bangor UMC at 12:30 p.m. on October 17. Please note that all Charge Conference reports will be due at the Charge Conference date. All members are encouraged to attend Charge Conference to share in the ministry of the Richmond Church.

News from Sunday School

Hello everyone,

It is that time of year again when you visit the mall for new clothes, stock up on pencils and papers, and rush around in the morning in order to catch the bus on time. Yes, school is back in session! That goes for the Sunday School program as well. The program is in desperate need of teachers for any grade level. Even if you are unable to fully commit to every Sunday if there are a couple of part time volunteers that would like to assist that would be a huge help. If interested please get in touch with Jen Hocking (610) 588-6414 or via email jennifer.e.hocking@gmail.com. Sunday school will begin on Sunday, September 12, 2010 @ 9:15AM. There will be a Rally Day picnic and covered dish after the 10:30 service at the Beers parsonage (weather permitting). Unlike last year where we had tickets to play the games and to participate in different events, this year will just be accepting donations. All donations will go toward the Sunday School program. We are looking forward to another fun and exciting year. We hope that you can join us and of course new children and members are always welcome.

"Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received - only what you have given: a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage." -Saint Francis of Assisi

Jennifer Hocking



Call to Ministry for Young Adults

For young adults between the ages of 18-35 who are sensing a call to ministry. At Upper Darby: New Life UMC, 51 S. State Street, Upper Darby, PA on Oct. 9, 2010 from 2-5 pm. The event, held in memory of the Rev. Thomas Sligh, will consist of worship, discussion about discerning one's call and steps for moving forward. If you are interested in participating, or know of a young adult who is trying to discern a call to ministry, please send the following information to Amy Botti at amy.botti@epaumc.org – include name, address, phone, and e-mail address.

“The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations.”

Jesus has taught us that God calls us to be fruit-bearing disciples. Together as a church family, we will explore what it means to be faithful and fruitful disciples of Jesus Christ through our Autumn Church-Wide Study,

During this study, you will encounter the “Five Practices:”

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Intentional Faith Development
- Risk-Taking Mission & Service
- Extravagant Generosity

You will have the opportunity to discover how to use these practices in your life and the life of this church. This study will take place from the week of September 12th to the week of October 10th. The study will be held in Thomas Hall during Sunday School hour, from 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Become the fruitful disciple that God calls you to be!

Sign up in the Narthex (or call the Church Office) for a book today! Then simply show up in Thomas Hall at 9:15 a.m. every Sunday from Sept 12–Oct 10! See you there!

Destination Ghana, Africa 2011

MISSION TRIP TO GHANA, AFRICA IN SUMMER 2011

This Summer I had the opportunity to talk to the 7th to 12th graders in the Super Summer School at the Bangor Middle School about Ghana. The class was very excited to learn about Ghana. They asked very curious and intelligent questions about life in Ghana, how I grew up, what a typical day in Ghana is like in the life of children, what sorts of hardships they face, what they like to do and their education, etc.

I tried to answer some of these questions as best as I could, but “the hardships they face” was the question that kept coming back. I told them that it is very difficult for children in Ghana to buy simple cold medicines and they also have not got daily necessities like toothpaste and brushes to clean their teeth. They use sticks from the bark of trees or soft sponges produced locally. These creative things are able to help them clean their teeth, but because they are not using any fluoride most of the children have decaying teeth. One girl raised her hand as if to ask me a question, and then asked what we can do about it. How can we help these poor children in Africa, in Ghana? I said if we all can bring a few items like a tooth brush, a tube of tooth paste, a packet of pain medicine, we can send these items to the people who are in need, especially the young children, so that their lives can improve. The Teachers, Tracy Finkbeiner and Latrice Gonzales, and staff Sherry Clifford, Bridget Pruett and the new Superintendent heard what the children wanted to do and asked

me to send them a list of items so they can help collect these items and send them to Ghana. The Superintendent told me we can set something up with a school and hopefully if technology allows the Bangor School Students can connect with students in Ghana via Skype while we are in Ghana. I called the Methodist Church in Ghana and asked how we can help, and they have given us a pastor who is also a chaplain at the biggest hospital in Ghana. The Rev. Dr. Bart-Plange is the pastor of Gbawe Methodist Church, and the whole town is buzzing with the news that folks from the United States are planning to come to Ghana to help in a small way.

Like the Students in Bangor most of us may only know just a little bit about Ghana so let me use this opportunity to share briefly about Ghana.

ABOUT THE COUNTRY, GHANA

Ghana is located on the West Coast of Africa. Ghana was colonized by the British for over a hundred years. It was called Gold Coast because the Portuguese, who were the first to land in Ghana in the 1400s, discovered a ton of gold. The name was changed to “Ghana” when the nation became independent in 1957. Ghana shares borders with La Côte d’Ivoire on the West, Burkina Faso on the North, Togo on the East, and the Atlantic Ocean on the South. Ghana is mainly an Agricultural Country with a tropical rain Forest.

The capital town of Ghana is called Accra and it is the administrative, political and economic center of the country. There are many forts and castles in Accra and Ghana as a whole. The Dutch, the Danes and the British all built fort and castles in the country. The Central region whose capital is called Cape Coast also has a lot of slaves castles built along its coast. Ghana also has

a lot of mining industries in the Western part of the country where gold, bauxite, diamonds and other precious metals are extracted. Some of these businesses, like the Ashanti Goldfields, are listed on the New York Stock exchange.

Weather: Ghana is close to the Equator so it has a tropical climate with two seasons—the rainy and the dry seasons. Different regions of the country have their rainy season at different times. The north has its rain from March to November, and dry in the remaining months. The South has two seasons starting from April to July with the monsoon rains fallings from one season to another.

Area Attractions: The Seat of the Government is called Christianborg Castle, which was built by the Danes. You can tell the European presence was huge in Ghana. I have not even spoken about the French who tried to also occupy the Eastern side. There are big markets, malls and people selling items in stores all over the place. One thing in abundance is great hot spices. There is a place called Independence Square where parades are held during Independence Day celebrations. There are, of course, nice beaches and the forts and castles to visit. In Kakum, which is like 25 miles from Cape Coast, is the Kakum Natural Park. This is a natural reserve packed with monkeys, elephants, antelopes, and over 300 species of birds and different animals.

People and Culture Religion: Due to the influence of the British, many people in Ghana speak English. The medium of transaction, business and instruction is English. However, there are about 12 local and ethnic languages with about 24 dialects. Some of the popular languages are Ashanti, Fanti (Sarah's language) Ga (Kofi's), Dagbani, Ewe, and Adangbe.

Ghana has 10 ethnic groups with different traditions, culture and customs. The Ashanti's are known for their gold, kente cloth and wooden stools.

Ghanaians, like all African countries, are fond of music and many people dance during ceremonies, marriages, funerals, in church and at church activities. The popular Ghanaian music is called Highlife.

Religion: About 40 percent are Christians and 30 percent Muslims and the remainder follow the African Traditional Religion. This is a belief in the ancestors and the Supreme Being.

Government: Ghana has had its fair of political instability but it is a constitutional democracy, with a president, parliament, and Supreme Court.

Economy: Ghana's economy is based on Agriculture and Ghana used to be the largest exporter of cocoa. One secret I have to tell you, if you like chocolate, Ghana makes the "best" chocolate in the world. Hershey actually uses cocoa from Ghana as part of their ingredients for their chocolate. Ghana's currency is called the Cedi (¢). There are about 1.45 cedi to one US dollar. When I was leaving Ghana in 1999 the population was 18 million it is up to 20 million at the moment.

The poverty rate of the people in Ghana is very high. You are either fortunate to be born in a situation that allows you to afford education and the basic necessities, or not. It is called "the haves" and "the have not's." Over 32 percent of the people are below the poverty line.

About 60 percent of people over the age of 15 can read or write, and the average annual income for the people is \$350. Most of the people live on a dollar a day and cannot afford three square meals.

WHERE WE ARE GOING: A Word from Our Hosts in Ghana

The world is really growing at a faster pace and many young people in Ghana, with so many dreams and aspirations wake up each day to an increasingly challenging life. These are people with so many expectations but how many of these ones live to accomplish their dreams?

THE LIFE OF A CHILD IN GHANA

In Ghana, a number of children are living with single parents and mostly reside in compound houses. The child will usually help with house chores like sweeping, fetching water, washing utensils, etc before getting ready for school. Some children will however have to go selling to raise some money before going to school. There are still quite a number of children in Ghana who are still out of school. Some are involved in menial jobs on the streets/ helping their parents with businesses.

Those children in school usually go to school on foot and close by 2:30 pm. Most of them get back to help their parents with house chores or go to sell on the streets to support their families. They return so late that they are unable to make time for their books. Those children who have some time to spare often move to play with other children in the community. They are usually involved in activities like playing football, video games, watching T.V., etc.

THE TARGET GROUP

For a much more focused discussion, I wish to crave your indulgence to have a closer look at the situation that pertains in the Gbawe Methodist Primary and Junior High Schools (JHS). The school is located in Gbawe, a fast- growing town in the newly created Ga-South District in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. Gbawe has actually grown so rapidly over the past few years, with the population shooting from about 837 (in 1984) to about 28,989 (in 2000) based on the 1984 and 2000 population census. It is now estimated that the population has grown to about 55,000+ with about 45% as youth. The growth in population alongside other factors has placed enormous demands on the available resources, most especially educational facilities.

DIFFICULTIES AND HOPES

Governmental interventions in the educational sector have led to a massive rise in enrollment in basic schools in the community, particularly the Gbawe Methodist Primary and JHS. The Gbawe Methodist Primary School was started on 26th February, 1945 and after almost 50 years a JHS was introduced. From its inception to date, the school has been battling with so many challenges. It has had to go through times where classes were held under trees, using benches belonging to a church. The P.T.A. (Parent-Teacher Association) helped to get some additional structures in place which are still inadequate.

The school, with an initial population of about thirteen (13) pupils has grown extensively to a three (3)-stream school, leading to the introduction of the shift system (half of the students attend classes in the morning from 7 a.m.-12 p.m. and the second half from 12.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m. in the afternoon alternatively). There is serious congestion in classrooms; with close to hundred pupils in each class. On the whole, the teacher/pupil ratio leaves so much to be desired as about thirty- five (35) teachers have to take care of over two thousand (2000) pupils. There are several parents who come knocking at the doors of the Head teacher, seeking for their wards to be enrolled. But the head teachers have no other choice than to send them away since the available facilities in the school can no longer permit any additional intake. You can imagine the number of young people whose aspirations/dreams for the future are being blown away and shattered just because they cannot get access to education.

Even the existing structures, especially the main classroom block which has seen very little renovation since it was constructed, is now very weak and the roof leaks anytime it rains. Also, the school has been struggling to furnish its small library with additional furniture and books. Plans by the P.T.A. to get a computer laboratory in place have also not been an easy task at all. The school compound is open and not connected to electricity so is prone to all kinds of people involved in social vices. Smokers, drug addicts and all sorts of people do several nasty things on the school compound at

night.

There is no staff common room for teachers to relax when there are no lessons or even to sit and mark pupils' exercises/assignments. They place their chairs and tables on the verandah or under trees and run for shelter whenever it rains or when the sun is scorching severely. The existing toilet facilities are now death traps so most parts of it has been closed, forcing the over 2000 school population to use about only two toilet pits.

These and many other factors which cannot all be mentioned now affect the lives of young people in the Gbawe community, and more specifically the Gbawe Methodist Primary and Junior High School.

An urgent and timely intervention is therefore needed to salvage the situation. We need to touch these young lives, redirect their focus and shape their dreams. I would be most grateful if you could assist in some or all of the following ways to alleviate the difficulties these young ones are going through:

1. Rehabilitation and expansion of the existing school building.
2. Library books to stock the small school library.
3. Building of a Staff Common room.
4. Construction of a vocational school for the pupils who have completed Junior High School and cannot further their education due to financial constraints.

5. Forging of a sister-school relationship.
6. Supply of computers and educational materials.

Coming for this mission in Ghana is definitely going to be worthwhile. I believe these many young lives that are waiting to be impacted would be so excited about this. A warm welcome awaits you by the Gbawe Methodist Church as well as the chief and the people of Gbawe.

Sincerely,
 The Rev. Dr. Bart-Plange
 Gbawe Methodist Church,
 Gbawe, Accra,
 Ghana

Some photos of the children, schools and community of Gbawe will follow soon. Stay tuned!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

This brings me to the need for your help. We hope between The Bangor School District and the surrounding churches we can collect these items so we can send them to the people. We hope to send about four Teams over to Ghana: a Medical Team, Pastoral Team, Youth Team and Lay Team, and about 5 people have already expressed their interest to go on the “Ghana, Africa Mission Trip.” If you are interested in going with us to Ghana on one of the Teams, please contact me through one of the numbers or email listed below. If you would to help collect the items, below is the list for your newsletter. Please help us to help these people. Please note that these items should all be new due to the vulnerability of the children and people.

ITEMS NEEDED

Vicks Children’s NyQuil Cold and Flu
 Triaminic Day time Cold and Cough (non drowsy)
 Triaminic Night time 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
 Neosporin
 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

Tooth brushes
 Toothpaste
 Crest oral B toothbrushes
 Colgate toothpaste
 Aqua fresh toothpaste
 Crest toothpaste
 Ivory soap bars
 Dove soap bars
 Dial soap bars
 Olay soap bars
 Johnson Head-to-toe baby wash
 Shampoo
 L'Oreal Shampoos
 Sauve 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
 and Bibles!
 Apart from these items, if you have anything else that you would like to donate like shoes, clothing, computers, or items that you are not using or feel you do not need, we will gladly collect these items to ship over to the people in Ghana. Thank you so much for supporting this mission. We will be collecting these items starting the beginning of September 2010 at the Richmond United Methodist Church, on 8538 Delaware Drive, Bangor, PA 18013. Please bring these items to the church office so it can be stored safely. All other items like clothing, schoolbags, shoes etc should be left on the stage at Thomas Hall. As you go shopping please pick these items up wherever you shop and bring them to the Richmond Church.

IF YOU WANT TO GO

If you want to go on the trip, please contact me so we can provide you with the requirements for the trip next summer. You will need:

- A Passport
- A Visa
- Inoculations for Malaria and Hepatitis B

Further details about travel arrangements and cost will follow soon. You may visit our website and bookmark the web page at <http://www.richmondumc.com/missions/2011.html> to keep track of updates on our preparations for this Mission Trip to Ghana. Thank you so much for making a difference! If you have any questions please contact me at the address below.

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Bridge Ministry

We are scheduled to feed the Bridge Ministry folks on Wednesday [November 10, 2010](#) at the First United Methodist church on South 2nd. Street in Easton, Pa. Please, no more clothing or household items until further notice. We currently are not sure where they will be by November, but we will keep everyone informed if and when they move. The meal will be spaghetti and meatballs, a loaf of bread, a stick of butter, and a pan of brownies or something comparable. The pans and recipe will be in the Narthex by the end of October, and Charles & Carol Hentz [610-588-9044](tel:610-588-9044) will be calling to line up the next 8 volunteer families to prepare the meal and have it at our church by 6:00 PM. We usually take 8 or 9 pans of food to feed anywhere from 50 to 90 people who attend the [Wednesday](#) service organized by Chip Burt and Tim DeLeone and their friends. Anyone wishing to come and help serve is welcome and you do not have to prepare food to be of assistance. Please consider that if you forget that you agreed to prepare a pan of food to feed a group of people who count on that meal to fill their empty stomach, they cannot go out and buy a burger because they have no money. They just go hungry that night. When we serve the meal and you see the smiles on the faces of the folks we are serving, especially the children, you know that you have accomplished something good. In addition, being there gives us an understanding of just how lucky we are, for there but by the grace of God go I!

Charlie Hentz