

THE WYOMING MESSENGER

April 2018



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The Journey of a NEW MINISTRY

By Associate Pastor
Dave Hill

The journey of any new ministry takes years of planning, discussion, investment, successes and failures until it might be considered a viable activity that bears fruit. The journey of the Hispanic/Latino Ministries at Wyoming Church has taken many of those same steps and more. The seeds of the genesis of these ministries were actually sown in the spring of 2013 when I was asked by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry what I would do to improve the levels of diversity in the church. While I freely admit I really didn't have an answer at that time I spent the months and now years that have followed with much study, discussion and plain ol' hard work.

Wyoming Church became actively interested in Hispanic/Latino Ministries in March of 2014 ...

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Code Purple Comes to a Close After Fourth Season

By Judy Field

As I compose this article for our Messenger, I am humbled to have served in our Code Purple Ministry. When I first suggested opening a Code Purple Sanctuary three years ago, there were some who were onboard immediately and some who were "naysayers" who thought it was not a good ministry for our church to undertake. I persisted because God had touched my heart and I just knew it was the right thing to do. I had such support from Amy Faircloth, Lynn Ditty and, more recently, Melissa Mann, who were my partners in achieving this ministry and who continue to be a fabulous source of support.

During this last Spring snowstorm, we were asked to open our doors to Code Purple, although we were not on the schedule to be open that week ...

Continued on Page 17



Ever Consider Volunteering?

By David Van Kavelaar

In the military, of course, the answer to this question is **NEVER!** But this question is in reference to our church. So here it goes.

Last Spring, while strolling through the narthex after our Sunday worship service, I met Linda Lyon. I forgot her title, Kid Commandant (?), and she was seeking volunteers to assist in the 2017 vacation bible school which will subsequently be affectionately referred to as VBS...

Continued on Page 9

Bulletin Board

Food First Sunday is May 6.

Leave your donations for the Kent Ecumenical pantries on the cart in the narthex.

Needed this time:

Applesauce, Canned Fruit, 1 lb. bag of rice, toilet tissue, canned meats, such as chili, stew, tuna, chunky soups, etc.

(also see related articles [Page 15](#) and [17](#))

Maybe... once we get started on our **NEW** photo directory, Spring will Come?

Dave Kleinot is volunteering his services as a professional photographer on Sundays later this month. We want everyone to be included. Dates to be announced... soon!

Any questions speak to Betsy Freidel ☎ 535-3983, Kim Reed ☎ 670-1832, or Barbara Shaw ☎ 538-6772

Vacation Bible School Needs 'Lemonade For Kids'!

In just a few short weeks the 2018 VBS, June 18 to 22, will be here. Chef Shelby Truitt, the SKT member who takes a leading role in the preparation of the VBS daily snacks and beverage, is requesting the donation of **instant crystal lemonade**.

The use of lemonade will avoid the presence of other beverage types that contain potentially harmful artificial coloring agents. Beginning on Sunday, April 8, you will find in the Narthex a Sexton Kitchen Team Kiosk poster and collection container in which containers of crystalline Lemonade can be placed.

Shelby ☎ 734-1326

Save these **FUN**draising dates!

Church Yard Sale -
August 4th
(Wyoming Peach Festival)

Yard Sale Table Rentals -
August 4th

Dinner & Silent Auction -
October 27th

Do you need someone to help in your home or in a loved one's home?

A friend of mine asked if I would put the word out for her, she is a certified nursing assistant and is looking to help those in need. She is available after 5 pm and salary is negotiable. I can vouch for her, she is a Christian woman, very caring and compassionate, very gentle nature.

If anyone is in need, I can give you her contact information.

Lisa McCalister, WUMC Liaison to Nurses Christian Fellowship
☎ (302) 632-3023



From the Pastor's Desk

Rick Wessell



Christ is risen; shout Hosanna! Another celebration of Easter has come and gone. We have again reflected on the cross, the empty tomb, and what Christ's resurrection means for us. Jesus' death on the cross assures us of our forgiveness of sins, and the empty tomb means that death does not have the final say for us, but that because of Jesus we have the gift of eternal life in Heaven with him. The celebration of his death

and resurrection fills us with joy and hope and our faith is again stirred and strengthened.

So, the question that is so often on people's minds is... now what? The Church puts significant effort and focus on the celebration of Christ's birth and his resurrection, so what do we do the rest of the year? A pastor a number of years ago closed the Easter worship service with these words: "I am glad

that so many of you chose to worship with us today. Many of you come to hear about Jesus' birth at Christmas, and many of you are here again to celebrate Christ's resurrection. I promise you that Jesus lived a most extraordinary life, and if you come the

rest of the year you'll get to learn about it!" His approach was perhaps a little forward, but the point is true. The Christian faith is more than just a twice a year enterprise; it is a 24/7, 365 journey of growth, discovery, learning, failing, rising again, and striving.

I pray that we will continue to model Christ and to worship him in spirit and in truth. Because of the empty tomb, our lives are filled with continual hope and joy—so let's live like it! Because of God's great love for us, we live with confidence and boldness, and we are to answer our call to spread the gospel and to love the world the way Jesus does - so let's do it!

May our celebration

not end when Easter is over,
but may it continue every day.

Happy Easter - Christ is risen!



"WHEN WE COME TO THE END
OF OURSELVES,
WE COME TO THE BEGINNING
OF GOD."

Billy Graham (1918 - 2018)



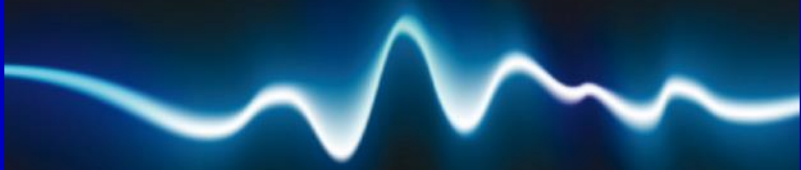


Pastor Dave's Ministry Minute -
April 2018

"Little Easters"

Easter Sunday is the day when we celebrate the Risen Lord... Year after year we make our Lenten journey, looking forward to the empty tomb, when on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ... Easter Sunday is a very big deal for Christians around the world and, has been, since the third day following the Crucifixion when, very early in the morning, Mary went to the tomb and discovered that Jesus was gone... In the midst of speaking with who she thought was the gardener, Jesus speaks her name... Through her tears she recognizes Jesus and her tears are turned to joy... She goes to tell the other disciples that Jesus is alive!! Hallelujah, Praise the Lord!! My friend Bill often times would say that we should celebrate the Risen Lord every Sunday; that every Sunday should be like a little Easter and I agree... Each and every Sunday we encounter the Risen Lord in songs, prayers, and the Word proclaimed in our Worship Services... We also encounter the Risen Lord through our fellowship beyond Sunday morning because we know that whenever two or more are gathered in the name of Jesus, He is with us... Perhaps my friend Bill should say that every day should be a little Easter... That every time we encounter the Risen Lord through prayer, study, devotion, and fellowship could be considered a little Easter... As followers of Christ we should keep our hearts fixed on the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and, like Mary, we should go forth from our encounters with Jesus, telling others that He is Risen, just as He said... So be it and Amen...

APRIL MEMORY VERSE



1 PETER 3:15 NIV
"BUT IN YOUR HEARTS REVERE CHRIST AS LORD.
ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO
EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU TO GIVE THE REASON FOR
THE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE. BUT DO THIS WITH
GENTLENESS AND RESPECT."



hope

Reflections

Reflections

Danny Cooper Coordinator/Counselor
@ Daybreak Counseling Services

Headlights

*The path of the righteous is like the noon day sun,
shining ever brighter till the full light of day.*
Proverbs 4:18

On my recent Thursday night drive home from the office, all started out normally. As has become the custom it seems, the weather that evening was rather London-like, with heavy cloud cover, almost foggy, with a light misting rain. The half-hour ride from Milford was relatively uneventful, but the drive seemed more tedious than usual.

Was it the incessant use of the windshield wipers? Maybe the dim, gloomy early evening sky was a factor. I couldn't figure it out, but I was getting pretty tired by the time I finally approached the little town of Woodside. While traffic along the road home was relatively light, it was just consistent enough that I never had the opportunity to use my high beam headlights; that is until I made the turn onto quiet, tree-lined Steels Ridge Road. As I made the turn and clicked on my high beams, it was as if London had suddenly given way to Las Vegas. I could instantly see far in front of me, as well as on both sides of the road. A sense of relief literally settled over me, now that I could finally see more clearly. Almost instantly I felt like I could relax a bit, and that fatigue feeling quickly dissipated. I also discovered at that very same moment that I had been riding from Milford with only my running lights on. I somehow forgot to turn my headlights on as I left the church that evening; no wonder I had struggled so much, for so long.

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said,
"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows
me will never walk in darkness, but will have
the light of life." John 8:12*

While that challenging drive home has certainly prompted me to be more mindful when driving at night (at least for the time being!), it has also reminded me of how difficult our journey can become when we venture the roads of life under our own power, and more

importantly, without the illumination of our Lord.

The question to ask ourselves is whether we are traveling life's pathways under our own power and our own navigation, or are we choosing to let God lead our way. The word "let" is important here, because as almighty as our God is, He will not force us, His children, to take Him along for the rides of our life. Not unlike a budding young adult, ready to blaze a path and make a name for one's self in this world,

we also, in our innate humanness, can feel rather confident and certain of ourselves, not necessarily seeing the need for God's companionship and/or guidance. Quite literally, if we are a little turned around, we just need to recalibrate the GPS, and away we go. Wow, I just had the *Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now* lyric from the 80's float through my memory...scary!

As a counselor, there are certain moments in session that are especially powerful to witness; moments when a courageous counseling client is struggling to sift through a memory or an experience that is heavy with challenging, often avoided feelings. It is during these episodes of struggle that clients seem to grow the most. They often serve as stepping stones of discovery and healing. They are the moments as a pastoral counselor when God's hand is so clearly visible to His children in need, as they work so hard to be released from emotional bonds that have held them back, with God's help and loving presence. There is no way to describe these moments. When God is present, words are suddenly insufficient.

With this being said, during a challenging moment in a counseling session not long ago, my client, a professional in her early fifties, while struggling with her emotions and working hard to put words to what she was feeling, was suddenly interrupted

by a steady, persistent beeping sound. With her attention now diverted, this nice lady looked down at her watch, smiled, and pushed a quick sequence of buttons. I immediately asked if all was o.k., as I was wondering if there may be an emergency at her work, or if the school was calling about her teenage son. My client interrupted my unspoken assumptions, laughingly saying, "My watch just told me to breathe. I guess I wasn't for a few seconds there". That challenging counseling moment my client was grappling with just moments before was over. That opportunity to struggle a bit with her emotions; to learn how to journey through those difficult feelings, recognizing the steady, strong presence of God by her side, was lost.

*The sun will no more be your light by day,
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on
you, for the LORD will be your everlasting
light, and your God will be your glory.*

*Your sun will never set again, and your
moon will wane no more; the LORD will be
your everlasting light, and your days of
sorrow will end. Isaiah 60:19-20*

As great as our God was, is, and will forever be, it is up to each of us to welcome Him along the pathways of our life; to let the light that will never fade illuminate our future travels on this earth. How difficult it can be, especially in our world today, to recognize the great need we have for our loving God; our ever present friend. Our God wants nothing more than to shepherd us through this life until our journey's end.

**Above all else this world may offer,
may we first choose the companion-
ship, and guiding light, of our ever
present and loving God... Amen**

Just
BREATHE..



Enjoy going to Camp Pecometh?
For the annual ladies' retreat?
Each year it gets better and better
Sounds like this one can not be beat!

Janna brings laughter and music.
Tracy's antics--surprising and new.
Kim's message, timely, inspiring,
Will seem like it's meant just for you.

Time alone to be thoughtfully reverent;
Time together for games and good chow;
Coming soon, and you won't want to miss it.
Invite friends and sign up for it now!

--original poem written by Bernice Ericson

QUESTIONS / INFORMATION...
Barbara Shaw ☎ (302) 538-6772 or
Hshaw111@aol.com or
Tracy Fennemore
TFennemore@gmail.com.

May 20-21, 2018

at the Riverview Retreat Center at Pecometh, Centreville, MD

Have **you** registered for the annual ladies' retreat? There's still room for you and your friends! Please register as soon as possible. This is an opportunity to fellowship in a Christian atmosphere as we sing, pray, eat, laugh, share in a comfortable setting, listen to each other and connect in a special way. We are very excited to hear what Kim Bryan will be sharing with us on "**RECEIVING GOD'S BEST**". Fill out a registration form at the welcome desk which will explain cost and travel details. **Payment deadline is May 6th.**

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2018

Michael Quarnaccio, Finance Team Leader

	February 28, 2018	Budget to Date
Total Income:	\$ 98,499.31	\$ 112,619.83
Total Expenses:	\$ 109,364.70	\$ 110,953.17
Net Income (Loss):	(\$ 10,865.39)	

Mortgage Balance on 2/28/2018

\$ 1,479,563.93

YOUR FUNdraising Team (with all your support) put \$10,000 towards debt reduction for our beautiful WUMC church building. Thanks to all who supported our events this past couple of years to make this donation possible!



Sexton Kitchen Team Grants Total \$5,900.00 For Youth Activities.

The members of your Sexton Kitchen Team have approved extending several grants that total \$5,900.00 to various Wyoming Church youth activities. The 2018 Summer Youth Mission Trip will receive a \$1,000.00 support grant while the amount of \$3,000.00 has been dedicated to Camp Pecometh Camperships. An academic college scholarship of \$1,000.00 will be awarded to a member of the 2018 High School Graduating Class (see article below). A grant of \$900.00 is to be used to support the 2018 Vacation Bible School's student food and beverage snacks as well as the VBS Volunteer Staff Picnic. All of these grants plus other monetary gifts that are given by your Sexton Kitchen Team to aid a variety of Wyoming Church activities throughout the year are made possible due to the outstanding positive response that you provide when you support the Team's fundraising activities including the Peach, Pumpkin and Cherry Pie Sales, the Special Dinners such as the 'Lasagna Event', and the Chicken Salad Sales, to name a few. Should you have any questions relative to the Team's funding actions, please see Linda Booher, Team Chair.



SKT \$1,000 College Scholarship For The 2018-2019 Academic Year.

At the March 1, 2018 monthly meeting of the Sexton Kitchen Team approval was given to offer a \$1,000.00 Academic College Scholarship to a member of the 2018 High School Graduating Class. This scholarship is open to all youth members of the Wyoming Congregation that have been active in the life of the Church. Applications will be available beginning on Sunday, April 1, 2018 from Terry Higgins. Completed applications are due no later than Sunday, May 27, 2018 with the announcement of the recipient to be made on Sunday, June 10, 2018.

Questions can be directed to Terry Higgins tmhiggins59@hotmail.com or ☎ (302) 492-3354 (H) or ☎ (302) 363-5823 (C).

Wyoming UMC

Youth Ministry

April UPDATE!

What's Happening

The youth ministries of Wyoming Church are open to all youth in grades 6-12.

Easter Sunday

April 8th:

April 15th:

April 22nd:

April 29th:

NO Youth Group

Youth Group, 6-8 PM

Youth Group, 6-8 PM

Youth Group, 6-8 PM

Youth Group, 6-8 PM

Youth with a Passion... for MINISTRY

Rise Against Hunger

(more pics on Page 16)



Youth with a passion... for FUN!



Ever Consider Volunteering?

Continued from Cover Page

... Me...with a herd of kids for a week? I thought Linda must be delusional; the youngest in my family is our 27 year old grandson. These kids today, called snowflakes or something like that, speak words I didn't know existed and carry these technical devices in their little mitts that, for all I know, could be Star Trek phasers. This younger set was like little aliens to me, the ultimate techniphobe, and felt I wasn't a good candidate for VBS.

So, without much fanfare (thank goodness!), I turned 70 in June. My life had settled into a predictable regimen since retirement in 2012. It was nice of Linda to inquire as to my thoughts on joining the VBS staff, but really? But you know, I did do things last year that I've never attempted previously including an art class, a study on the U.S. Constitution, bird watching at Bombay Hook, an introduction to Beethoven's nine symphonies, and a class on the human anatomy. So could hanging out with little ones for a week in VBS be that bad? Hmmm. So I decided to give VBS a shot and was glad I did. I was with Martha Higgins and we had 5th and 6th graders and, well, it was a blast!

VBS was well orchestrated as it included Bible study, outdoor games (Pastor Rick shed some pounds conducting games outside in the heat that week), art, science, and a time for discussion. And, oh yeah, snack time. The music (even I have a Super Hero CD) and videos addressing the Super Hero theme were outstanding and Brad was excellent in his role of stirring up the excitement level of the kids. In summary, the one week of VBS was enjoyable and personally rewarding. All the teachers, helpers and kids were great!

Next came the youth mission trip to Pittsburgh in July. Having already conceded that, well, maybe I should revisit my beliefs on the younger set, I was now ready for this venture. Our church group, along with four other church groups, participated in the Pittsburgh Project. We worked on homes of less fortunate folks and performed minor repairs and painting; kind of like Habitat for Humanity work. It was fun working with other boys and girls from other churches as well as getting to better know the youth from our church. The major benefit in this program, aside from sprucing up our client's home, is that our kids obtained a new perspective on "things".

So, volunteering at Wyoming United Methodist Church is fun and we have the opportunity to positively influence our youth. We just returned from two weeks in Mexico and I gained seven pounds. If Rick can drop pounds in VBS, certainly I can shed some too. Seriously, if you have the time and want to have some fun, consider volunteering for these worthwhile events!

David Van Kavelaar



Hey everyone!
The rapids are heading our way!!



Hard to believe it, but we are starting to gear up for this year's

Vacation Bible School "Rolling River Rampage!"

The dates this year are

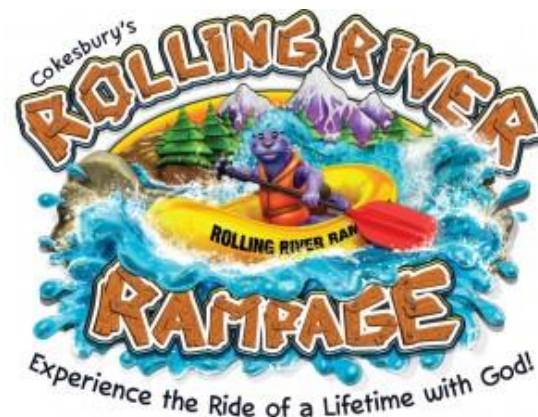
June 18-22, 8:30 AM to 12:15 PM.

As we all know, this is a huge team effort and takes many volunteers to make the week run smoothly. If you know you'd like to help out, please contact me at bjwhitey@comcast.net. Kate Kleinot and I will be co-directing, and I will serve as the contact person. I will be reaching out to folks in the next few weeks to start getting our volunteer list filled. Also, please see our VBS wish list that we have started in case you are able to lend us any supplies for set needs (don't drag those Christmas trees to the attic yet)! You will have these items returned when the week is over! Thanks so much!! More to come!

Janna (Whitenight) and Kate

Do you have any of the following items to lend to our VBS set?? Items we're looking for include the following:

Artificial Christmas trees of all sizes
(with or without lights)
Inflatable rafts six feet long or smaller
Raft paddles
Small camping stools





Dave & Debbie Killen



Dorothy Shelton

March 25, 2018 -
Welcome, New Members,
to the Wyoming Church Family!



Steve & Vicki Ward



Faye Jolly



John St. Jean

My dear friends at Wyoming Church;

The third Sunday in April, April 15th, marks my 4 year anniversary of serving the congregation of Wyoming Church as your ASL interpreter. Ironically, April 15th is also National ASL Awareness Day. The ASL Class was added to my palette in September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for welcoming me and my husband, John St. Jean, into your family. BY the time this newsletter is in print, John will have become a member of this worship community.

There is something very special about this place and these people, and I am honored to be able to serve the communications needs as they arise. I look forward to each Sunday service and each activity, knowing that I will be welcomed and accepted for my contributions.



Little did I know when I met Dave Hill at a Job Fair trying to recruit mentors, that Dave Hill would be recruiting me and opening a new chapter for me.

So, again, I say, "Thank you!" and I'll see you in church!

Gail Garner

We've been truly blessed to have you, dear Gail, and together with your ASL students and our hearing-impaired sisters and brothers in worship and at so many church events, we say - **Thank YOU!!**

Thank you, everyone, for your cards, gifts, visits, meals... and most of all your prayers of healing and thoughts of me during my recent hospitalization and recovery. I am so blessed within my loving church family!

Liz Marino

~ Our People ~

~ April Birthdays ~

04/01	Maddie Mastriana, Bob Kirby	04/13	Casey Houtz, Bonnie Luke	04/28	Nicholas White, Jacob Williams, Dan Hoyme
04/02	Matthew Dotson, Irene Gillette, Hannah Cote	04/14	Pat Farina, Ryder Witherell, Lois Murray	04/30	Pat Lawson, Jason Fennemore, Lissa Franklin
04/03	Ross Lancaster	04/15	Doni Purdy, Michael Davis, Wendy Witherell, Becky Schultz	05/01	Trish Rodriguez, Dave Salmon, Patsy Schweppe, Karen Tiedgen, Karly Jones Sigurd, Tiffany Long
04/04	Doris Taylor, Tyler Heffington, Cort Massey, Ian Pearson, Alicia Sumpter	04/16	Katie Heffington, Timothy Leister	05/02	Juliet Klecan
04/05	Kathy Deckard, Margaret Jones, Reileigh Gray	04/18	John Pearson, Michelle Thompson	05/03	Norma Lee French
04/06	Jim Klecan, Noah Delgado, Rachel Edwards, Chris Kirby	04/19	Susan Cook, Jeremy Piazza	05/04	Judi Leczner, Eric Jones
04/07	Marty Downing	04/20	Cheryl Weil, Alexa Rogge, Justin Anthony, Lauren Forbes	05/05	Sherry Kijowski, Janet Meyer, Emily Dejesus
04/09	Josh Turner, Josh Leczner, James Piazza, Garrison Eaby, Lauren DeLong	04/21	Janet Wooley	05/06	Pat Sholtes
04/10	Heidi Piazza, Colby Lyon	04/22	Logan Pearson		
04/11	Derek Leister	04/23	Colleen Papen, Cole Bergeron		
04/12	Dave DeLong	04/25	Tim Lyon, Logan Heffington		
		04/26	Jim Papen, Roger Kelsey, Valerie Riggins		
		04/27	Mary Dawn Ditty		

~ Wedding ~

Dariyn Williams & Deandre Gray, pictured with 'Papaw' Bill Parkland (left) and 'Nana' Donna McCartney (right) were married on March 24, 2018.



World's Best
Nana

~ Death ~

Edward Wojnisz, the step-father of Elaine Kesselring, on February 23, 2018.

Jesus said ..., "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." John 11:25

Spring is in the air...

Beautiful Music is just around the corner!

April 23rd Spring Hymn Sing

@ Dover Place at 6:45 PM

All are invited to join their hearts and voices to praise the Lord. Not only the flowers will be blooming but you can bloom, too with the joy and

wonderful fellowship singing with the residents, it is just the nutrients you need to bloom.

If you need any additional information, please call Donna
☎ 331-0876



Grounds Weeding, Edging, Mulching And Feeding!

A brisk Saturday morning in March welcomed 20 hardy souls to the first of two 'Grounds Events' at our Wyoming Church. The first event, the 17th of March, concentrated on weeding, edging, trash cleanup, curb cleaning, removing old soaker hoses and individual plant mulching. The good folks that volunteered were Gloria Barker, Wayne Davis, Dan Deckard, Thomas Guardado, Dottie Harper, Wesley Hernandez, Martha Higgins, Terry Higgins, Debbie Killen, Stan Leczner, Bill McMahan, Brock Nelson, Gary Nelson, Hannah Nelson, Ed Palmer, Ernie Piazza, Frank Roberts, Josh Turner, Hector Velazquez and Dave Yencer. Linda Booher, Jim Moore and Nikole Moore were the congenial hosts for the luncheon of subs, beverages, and dessert that followed the very productive efforts of the volunteers.

Saturday, April the 14th, from 9:00 AM to 12 Noon is the second Grounds Event. The plans for this activity include curb and sidewalk edging, laying new soaker hoses in the landscaped beds that line the west wall of the Church, placing a final mulch cover on the individual plantings and cleaning up the fire pit site. There will be a Sign-Up sheet in the Narthex for those who feel led to participate in this activity. We will have a complimentary luncheon for all of those folks who are able to join us on the 14th. Terry Higgins at tmhiggins59@hotmail.com or ☎ 492-3354.

Memorial Bricks, Memorial Garden, New Memorial Plantings!

The opportunity to place an order for a Memorial Brick is a continuing, ongoing, simple and easy process. Applications for placing an order are always available at the Memorial Garden model display that is located in the Narthex. The cost of each Memorial Brick includes the inscription of your choice, placement at a location in the Memorial Garden of your choosing, a permanent Memorial Garden Record of the Brick's location stored in the Church's Memorial Room and perpetual care of all of the components in the Memorial Garden.

The next time that you park in the Church's South Parking Lot take the time to look at the ongoing construction of the two new Memorial Planting Beds that are taking shape. The smaller of the two Memorial Planting Beds, handily located just outside the rear door of the Chef's Kitchen, will be planted with herbs that have a Biblical connection including mints and sages. Once these herbs have become established they will be available for use by the Chefs of the Sexton Kitchen Team in the preparation of a variety of hand crafted foods. The larger of the two Memorial Planting Beds, located along the South wall of the Church, will contain shrubs that also have a Biblical association including a fig tree shrub. Additional plans call for the acquisition and transplanting of an olive tree, with the promise of fresh olive fruits for use in the Chef's Kitchen, to compliment the well established Lebanon Cedar that is growing near the edge of the South Parking Lot.

Once the 'weather breaks' the promise has been made that the 'finishing touches' will be completed for the Memorial Garden which will then be followed by a formal dedication. Should you have any questions relative to all of these activities and plans please do not hesitate to contact Dave Yencer at ☎ 222-2252



The Journey of a NEW MINISTRY

*Continued from
Cover Page*

...when Bishop Johnson put forth an initiative to grow the Hispanic/Latino Ministries in our conference. At that time there were only two churches that offered Hispanic/Latino Ministries. One is located in Wilmington and the other is in Georgetown. Both continue to provide ministry to the Hispanic/Latino in their areas. A meeting was called by the leadership of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference at that time to discuss what could be done. Following the meeting a task force was formed to advance the initiative. To date little has been done across the conference except for the work in which we at Wyoming Church have been engaged.

In August of 2014, we successfully wrote a grant in the amount of \$91,000 for the purpose of developing Hispanic/Latino Ministries at Wyoming Church. Our initial goal was to provide English as a Second Language classes hoping to connect with the Hispanic/Latino community. We entered into a partnership with Polytech Adult Education who provides the teachers and other resources to facilitate this new ministry. The ESL classes began in February of 2015 with a full roster of students that continues to this day with a full enrollment of over 25 persons. From the inception of the classes we not only had Spanish speaking persons enroll in the class but we have had students from many different nations. We have had people from a variety of cultural backgrounds with the largest percentage of the students from Haiti. So suffice it to say this broadened the scope of the ministry. It made sense to adjust our thinking to view the ministry as multi-cultural in nature rather than being focused solely on Hispanic/Latino persons.

The over-arching goal behind this initiative was to be in ministry to the seasonal farm hands in the fields that surround our church and to offer bi-lingual worship services. Those goals seemed to be getting further away as time went by until I received a call from Carlos Reyes. Carlos serves as the Director of Hispanic/Latino ministries for

our conference. He told me that there was an Hispanic/Latino Church that had recently been displaced and need rooms for study and youth activities. In December of 2016, I had a fortuitous meeting with Pastor Eric Fontanez, who serves as the Lead Pastor of Casa de Esperanza (House of Hope). Casa de Esperanza needed space for Bible Study and Youth Group activities. They were conducting worship services at Wesley College in Bennett Chapel on Sunday afternoons at that time. This was the beginning of the road back to Hispanic/Latino Ministries. We partnered with Casa de Esperanza in ministry to the farm hands in the summer of 2017 and we began hosting their worship services on Sunday afternoons in November, 2017, thus achieving our original goals.

We believe that the ministry partnership we hold with Casa de Esperanza has come about in order to build into the Hispanic/Latino ministries on which we were originally focused. I am convinced that this has come about through the movement of God's Spirit and that we will continue to advance the kingdom through this partnership.

I know there will be questions and perhaps some bumps along the way but I know that God will make a way as we seek his face together. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, suggestions or to find out how you can be involved.

Pastor Dave



On Saturday, March 17, twenty-three people came to produce sewing projects for our community. Over seventy printed pillowcases were sewn. They will be washed and placed in sealed bags for Immuno-compromised patients at CHOP. Fifteen school bags were sewn which will be filled with school supplies and sent to UMCOR for students around the U.S. Large food bags were made for the Kent Ecumenical Food Bank that will be filled with food for holiday meals for families around Dover.

Participants were from the Helping Hands Quilt Guild as well as Wyoming Church. At least 5 people kept busy ironing while 18 others sewed. It was a productive day for community sewing. May the recipients of these projects feel God's warmest blessings!



new life
new ideas
new ministry





The March 'ALL MEN ARE WELCOME' **Prayer Breakfast** will convene in the 'Backroom' at Hall's Restaurant on **Saturday, the 28th from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM**. 'Prayers of Joy' will be the "Mini Message". Ordering from the menu we will enjoy good food, an uplifting message and great fellowship in a relaxed and informal setting. Bring a friend if you feel so led!

Information/Questions — Josh Turner ☎ 678-9818.

Food & Faith & Fellowship & Family & Food & Faith

Party with the Pampered Chefs... on **Sunday, April 15 at 12 noon**

in the 'big' kitchen (Family Life Center).
All proceeds will go toward the WUMC mortgage debt reduction.

☎ Nikole Moore (302) 222-1602



Linda Booher, Sexton Kitchen Team (SKT) Chair, is delighted to offer a '**Big Souper Soup Day Thank You**' to all of the SKT members and the many Wyoming Church Brothers and Sisters who volunteered as cooks, pastry makers, servers, clearers, cashiers, recorders, Bake Table Sales Ladies and Nurses during the just completed October to March 2017-2018 Soup Day Season. An ever increasing number of congregational and 'first time' local and regional folks responded to the growing positive reputation of our Wyoming Church's Soup Days thus making this 'Season' the most attended ever. Our guests were very impressed and responded well to the obvious feelings of genuine warmth and friendliness that they experienced. Your collective 'over the top' efforts continues to make our Wyoming Church the outstanding venue that it is!

Mmmmmmmh...
Mmmmmmmh...

Youth



The annual "All You Can Eat" Spaghetti Dinner will be held on **Saturday, April 21st**. The youth will be serving Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Dessert and Drinks from 4:30 till 6:30 pm. All proceeds will benefit the 2017 youth summer mission trip to West Virginia. Cost \$9 adults/\$5 age 4 to 12. Kids under 4 FREE.

Tickets and Take-out will be available at the door.

Food, Faith & Family

April's Sexton Kitchen Team's Food Ministry Program of Food, Faith and Family continues to support a variety of Wyoming Church programs that are either underfunded or not funded at all. At a recent Sexton Kitchen Team (SKT) a total of \$5,900.00 was awarded to a variety of Church activities --- please see associated articles in this issue of the 'Wyoming Messenger'. Your individual and collective continuing and ongoing support of the Team's fundraisers enable your SKT, through the Team's goals and

objectives, to provide support for the Team's Food Ministry Program that, in turn, aids the children, youth, families, adults and seniors.

One of your SKT's goals is to determine how to best, given the Team's gifts and graces and the physical capabilities of the Chef's Kitchen, be able to respond to natural and human induced emergency responses. To that end Carol Abbott, Tina Klecan, Nancy Roberts, and Terry Higgins recently met with Pastor Rich Walton, Conference Trainer for

Emergency Response, to discuss how to begin to develop the capability to offer aid in such events as northeasters and hurricanes. You will be kept apprised as this phase of the SKT plane continues to develop and evolve.

The preliminary plans for the 2018 Vacation Bible School, June 18 to 22, are now underway. Should you feel led to want to know about the meaningful and satisfactory activities of the SKT please see Linda Booher, Team Chair ☎ (302) 632-7765.



for **Food First Sunday**
Deliveries:

Cloth grocery carry bags.
May have printed advertising. These bags will be used for patrons who have to walk home carrying food.

We will have an ongoing collection of these bags. Please place them with **Food First Sunday** food donations on the cart in the narthex.

WANTED

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Congregation and Food Pantry Committee of First Baptist Church we want to thank you for your support of our Food Pantry Ministry. In 2017, we provided 12,894 meals to the needy in our community. We also gave out 25 Thanksgiving Baskets and Christmas Baskets. Families needing help are referred by the Department of Social Services, other churches and friends.

We have been blessed by you and so many other friends in our community whose generosity helps us with this ministry. Without all this support we could not continue to help the needy in our area. For many years God has blessed our Food Pantry Ministry and we know He will continue to do so as long as there is a need. We see God's love revealed as we provide meals to the less fortunate in our community.

Again, our personal thanks for your continued support.

In Christ's Love
Norma J. Courtney,
Food Pantry Secretary
First Baptist Church

(see related article on Page 17)



Young and Old(er)

Alike

Take Part in
Rise Against Hunger

What a fabulous morning at WUMC! Approximately 60

men, women and children spent **ONLY** an hour and a half, packaging 10,000 meals for the organization **RISE AGAINST HUNGER!** This project is so popular because there are jobs for all ages! Although the music was probably aimed at younger people, all enjoyed the rhythms that kept us going. Greg, from **RISE AGAINST HUNGER** also kept us entertained with his United Methodist jokes! It was interesting to learn that this organization was founded by a Vietnam Veteran who later became a United Methodist Minister and then started STOP HUNGER NOW which was later renamed **RISE AGAINST HUNGER**. If you missed it this year, stay tuned... we hope to have the

funds to do it again next year! So far, we have had over \$1,000 donated towards the



**Big R.A.H. supporters -
Pastor Rick & Outreach
Leader Judy Field**



... onto the truck!



From the assembly line...

**Is that
YOU
helping
next year?**

Code Purple Comes to a Close After Third Season

Continued from Cover Page

... Our Adult Fellowship leaders graciously agreed to cancel their monthly dinner so we could be open all three of the requested nights, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Within 24 hours, we had people step forward and volunteer to help staff the sanctuary, donate fruit, make meals and drive the Code Purple bus.

And then came the "64 Thousand Dollar" question... Could we stay open during the day on Wednesday so we didn't have to turn the homeless men out into the storm? I have to confess that that situation was my worst nightmare! Stranded at church with 35 men and the power goes off!! The thoughts were terrifying but I felt in my heart that God was telling me it was the right thing to do. With my always trusty companion, Warren, by my side, we went in at 7:00 a.m. and stayed until 6:00 p.m. All but one of the volunteers braved the roads and came to relieve us and everybody was able to fulfill their commitments. Thank you to all of those people who stepped up when we needed help! You are awesome examples of our Christian faith in action!

I share this with all of you, not for praise or pats on the back but because I want you to know how important this ministry is to our homeless population. One of the nicest, most helpful men, shared with me this morning, that he is dying from non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. He is 57 years old and has lost everything he has because of his medical bills. He had a business, vehicles, homes, etc. and, in order to take the risk of a new treatment that might help him, he risked it all. His risk didn't pan out and, at this time, there is nothing else that can be done for

him. He feels ill all the time; has trouble sleeping and eating and still was the first one to go and clean the bathroom or mop the floor. He says that his life has been wonderful and his attitude about his pending death is just amazing.

This is why I do what I do... for people like this man. **"For by the grace of God, go I."**

I am pleased also to announce that Melissa Mann will be taking the helm of our Code Purple ministry next season. We will still all be involved but Melissa has a passion for the homeless and has the youth and energy to carry out this ministry to its fullest. Please give her your support as you have given me over these last four years! God bless each one of you who have been an integral part of this ministry!
In His Service,

Judy Field

Dear Judy,

For your tireless efforts and amazing leadership in this Code Purple ministry and at the helm of WUMC Outreach on so many fronts over so many years -



**Wishing you
All the gifts of Easter
That are found
In the light of
His Love.**

*Dear Wyoming U.M. Church
Members,*

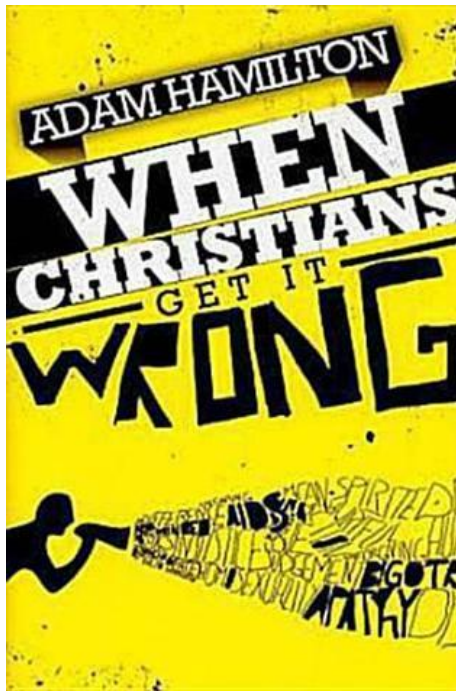
We would like to thank you all for your ongoing support of the food pantry with your generous donations. We are grateful for each and every contribution.

We wish you all a blessed Easter!

*Sincerely,
The Samaritans of Holy Cross*

The WUMC Food Pantry may have closed its doors, but we are still actively feeding the hungry in our community! On the first Sunday every month, we take up a collection of food items in support of the First Baptist and Holy Cross pantries. Next **Food First Sunday is on May 6**, drop your donations on the cart in the narthex, and again...

*Thanks!! on behalf of the needy families
in our community and the WUMC
Outreach Team*



NEW in Adult Sunday School II

at 9:45AM in Room 101
by the 'coffee pot'

More and more young adults have opted out of Christianity and the church. The reason? Christians.


When young adults talk about the problems they have with Christianity and the church, they often name certain attitudes and behaviors they believe are practiced too often by Christians: judging others, condemning people of other faiths, rejecting science, injecting politics into faith, and being anti-homosexual. With his familiar style, Adam Hamilton

tackles these issues and addresses the how's and why's of Christians getting it right when it comes to being Christ in the world.

Those who read When Christians Get It Wrong will gain a different way of understanding the issues that keep people away from Christianity and keep Christians from living a more compelling faith. Because, honestly, if we don't start getting it right, we may lose an entire generation.

- ◇ Starting on April 8 -
- ◇ Join us anytime!



So  ...February's "Valentine" ARC Dance @ Wyoming Church! Come and welcome our friends with disabilities at their "Spring Fling" Dance on Friday, April 20 - 7 PM.




The Arc
of Delaware



It's Camp Pecometh Time!

There are over 20 different camps available for kids and youth from Kindergarten through 11th grade.

You can rock out while worshipping God.



cook up something delicious!



or make a



in one of several camps that have you out on the beautiful Chester River.

Still not sure Camp Pecometh is the right fit? Then mark your calendars for **Pecometh Day on April 28**. Bring the whole family and enjoy free activities including open house tours, games, music, hayrides, food, and exhibits.

Wyoming UMC provides financial assistance so that anyone who wants to go to Pecometh, can go. Please contact Mindy Anthony at ☎ 698-7729 (call or text) or mbanthony1972@gmail.com for more information on the financial assistance available. And check out Pecometh's website (www.pecometh.org) for more information on all of the summer camp options.

Dear Volunteers!

Would you like to join the number of faithful, reliable and much appreciated substitutes who would fill in for the office manager, a few hours at a time, when I'm on my 'summer break' **from July 17 through August 17?**

Currently, in my absence we need a substitute whenever my assistant Angela Donastorg is not in the office - we'll have her summer class schedule soon. The church office is open from 9AM to 4PM with a half hour lunch at 12:30. A volunteer would typically come in for the morning (9AM to 12:30PM) or afternoon (1 to 4PM).

What does a substitute do?

You don't have to do my job... You **help walk-ins** as best you can, **answer the phones** and **take messages**. All important phone numbers and all information on current events is right there in the office for you, and, of course, you can use the internet on any office computer while you're here.

Maybe a few more people would be willing to give it a try? Moms, you can bring in your little ones - we have toys in the office.

Thanks for considering!

Renate Purdy, Office Manager



A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

216 Wyoming Mill Road, Dover, DE 19904

Phone: 302-697-8400 Fax: 302-697-8470

E-mail: office@wyomingumc.com

www.WyomingUMC.com



To: You!



Easter in 40 Words

Love gave.
Help came.
Compassion reached.
Mercy saved.

Beauty filled.
Hope instilled.
Burdens lifted.
Grace revealed.

Death ended.
Breach mended.
Joy danced.
Peace extended.

Curtain torn.
Power soared.
Freedom breathed.
Life reborn.

He forgave.
Truth overcame.
Glory rose.
Light reigns.

by Debbie McDaniel

Several people have recently inquired about the availability of **tee's, sweat shirts and hoodies with the Wyoming Church logo screen printed on the front** of the shirt. I have inquired and we will need a minimum of 15 items to be ordered to justify "setting the screen print mechanism up" by the printer who does the screen printing. Any combination of tee's, sweat shirts and hoodies will work. Prices will be similar to what they have been in the past. I cannot get a "price quote" until we are sure of the 15 minimum count.

Likewise, if people want to order the embroidered logo polo shirt, we would need 15 as a minimum order. Prices about what they have been in the past.

Zippered hoodies would also require a minimum of 15 orders. The reason is that each type requires a different set up, and the polo's are embroidered.

If you are interested in obtaining a logo'ed shirt, etc. please contact me so I can get a head count to determine if we have enough for the minimum order.

George Pettyjohn ☎ (302) 222-3008

P.S. Your comment regarding interest in a shirt does not commit you to a purchase.

