

# Our Church Matters

Volume 1, Issue 1

JANUARY 2014

Inside this issue:

Book Club News	2
One-Call-Tell-All System	2
Memorials	2
Thank You Notes	3
Prayer Request	4-5
Youth News	6
Men's Fellowship New	7

## From the Pastor

Psalm 90, verse 12 says: So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

A couple of years back, a friend of mine was doing an occasional devotional that he would send to those who subscribed. It usually consisted of a picture and a question. That's all.

In the first week of January that year, he sent a picture of a totally blank calendar with the question: *how will you use the time God has given you?*



The power of that picture really grabbed me. How do I fill my days? Do I just let things happen without a thought to God's direction, and how God would have me use the time I've been given? Those seem like excellent January questions!

On the first Sunday in January, when we celebrate Epiphany, I will be inviting you to reflect on your covenant with God. We will pray Wesley's Covenant Prayer just before we come for communion, and you will have an opportunity to consider what that means for your life.

On Sunday, January 12, we will be blessing the leaders of the church and beginning the first set of what I am calling *Questions and Quandries: An Ongoing, Occasional Series on Life's Challenges*. This first set is more specifically called *The Almighty Dollar*. As we enter the new year and leave Christmas behind, many families will face the after-Christmas bills that threaten to overwhelm them, and over the last few years many of us have faced economic

challenges. The themes in this series are:

*Is Your Money Managing You?* (Jan 12)

*Intention, Intention, Intention* (Jan 19)

*Money and Marriage* (Jan 26)

It is my hope that we will be able to examine the life issues in the context of our faith – real life issues handled faithfully and with guidance from the scriptures. It is also my hope that these series will be of interest to families who may be searching for faith relevant to the lives they are living.

***Please remember that our Sunday morning schedule changes on January 5!***

Rich and I wish you a New Year blessed with a deep sense of contentment and peace – and an extra helping of grace along your way!

*Vivian*

Special points of interest:

- How will you use the time God has given you?
- January 5, Epiphany, we will reflect on our covenant with God.
- January 12 we will bless the leaders of the church
- New Sermon Series starts on 1/12, "The Almighty Dollar."



## BOOK CLUB NEWS:

Each year, the RUMC book club chooses a charity to benefit for their end of the year/Christmas meeting. In keeping in the spirit of the book, *A Seaside Christmas* by Sherryl Woods, the women voted to give a donation to the **Chesapeake Bay Foundation**. During their November meeting which they celebrated with appetizers and desserts, they gathered in excess of \$270.00. These funds will be used to help preserve the Bay.

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Book Club's first meeting of the new year will be on **Wednesday, January 22 at 7:00** in our library. We will discuss *The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe. The author and his mother, a cancer patient, form a two-person book club for two years. They rediscover their lives through reading and discussing and are constantly re-



mindful of the power of books. Although this is a story of loss, it is also a celebration of life.

All are welcomed to join us!

### Memorial Gifts

**May the Souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace.**

**A donation has been made to the Food Pantry:**

To honor my amazing Dad, **Tom Caltrider**, by Sheri & Tom Fogarty

### **In loving Memory of Louis E. Fritz, Jr.**

The following people have contributed to the Memorial Fund:  
Worth & Evelyn McKeithan  
James Duffy & Jill Jasuta

### **In loving Memory of Thomas Richard Harry, Sr.**

The following people have contributed to the Memorial Fund:  
Doris Harry  
Joan & Arthur Hobbs  
Alford Plumbing & Heating, Inc.  
Michael & Sandra Richardson

And a donation has been made to the Food Pantry in his Memory

### **one-Call-Tell-All System**

The **one-Call-Tell-All System** that the Church is using for notifications seems to be a huge success. If you've been asked to participate in the Turkey dinner or Christmas breakfast by a recording over the phone than you have

already benefited from this program. Many don't realize that not only does this system work with the church membership at large but also for numerous small groups that have turned in their list to make keeping in touch with their members more effective and

simple. If you are a leader and your group has not been added, it is not too late to do so. Just contact Brenda Soskin, Al Soskin, or Kate Strom (or the church office) and they will help set up your list and give instructions on using the system.



## Thank You Notes

Hello Irene and RUMC,

I had a very warm feeling as I received then explored the Thanksgiving basket from RUMC. As I looked at each item, I could picture the members that contributed. I could visualize the Sunday School children, the ladies' groups, the men, and Pastor Vivian, who extended the season to Christmas with her card and glass heart. How thoughtful of RUMC to do such a thing! The crèche made by the children will be on display in Springwell's Main Lobby with a note telling where it came from. How blessed it was to receive it!

I definitely like the classic look of "Our Church Matters" and the schedule change coming in January.

The best to all of you.

**Frank Simmonds**

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Dear RUMC Friends,

It was so good to see Jan Porter! I was delighted with the pretty basket she brought with her. It contained all kinds of delicious goodies (thank you bakers!) and ornaments for my tree and tissues, lotions, cards and candy, just a wonderful, thoughtful collection. She also brought an adorable shadow box with a manger scene inside. You are so creative! I appreciate your thinking of me and taking the time to let me know that you do. I'm happy here, but I do miss old friends from RUMC. I wish for all of you a happy healthy holiday season and a great 2014.

Fondly, **Ann Garman**

Reisterstown UMV, Pastor Vivian & Rich McCarthy,

I want to thank all of you for the lovely basket of goodies and cards that you sent me before Thanksgiving. I enjoyed them very much. It was very thoughtful of you and I certainly do appreciate it.

Sincerely, **Elsie H. Smith**

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RUMC Family,  
Thanks for the love, prayers and prayer shawl throw you sent my way.

Blessings, **Tyler Mays**

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I would like to thank to all the church group for sending me the basket while I was in the hospital. Thank you very much.

**Margaret Redmond**

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Dear Reisterstown United Methodist Church Congregation:

I and all the clients and staff of the Domestic Violence safe house would like to thank you for all of the wonderful donations that we received from your fall drive. All of these materials will help every client that comes through the door of the safe house. As always we are so thankful of everything that RUMC continues to do to help the safe house.

Thank you so much,  
**Dona Ponn**  
Program Coordinator , Domestic Violence Safe house



Many thanks for the "Basket of Love". What a surprise! I enjoyed the goodies. I will treasure the manger forever. Thanks to all who made my day so special.

Love you all,  
**Lois Woodworth**

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RUMC:  
Thanks to all for the cards and hugs, or for just being there. The luncheon was perfect. We have a wonderful pastor in Vivian. We are blessed to have her.

**Ida, Teresa & Sandra**

Thank you for your continued support of this project by RUMW. We are pleased to announce that we have made \$3,231.44 selling gift cards throughout the year 2013. 10 % of the profits are given toward the church budget, as required by the Finance Committee and the rest will be used for Missions. This is an ongoing fund raiser and we appreciate your support by purchasing gift cards and shoppers cards from us. We will continue to take orders on the 3rd Sunday of each month in 2014. Any questions, please call Tammy Nash, [410-239-8394](tel:410-239-8394).

## Thank You Notes continued from page 3.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your congregational Christmas gift. It was a very nice surprise!

It is truly a great joy to serve among you here at RUMC. Your thoughts and insights published in the Advent devotional booklet moved and inspired me. Your creativity and willingness to try some things with me are inspirational. And your acceptance and generous spirits in welcoming me and Rich and my mother have lifted us many times.

May you find 2014 to be a year of great blessing and abundant grace!

Blessings on you,

*Vivian*

To all my friends at RUMC,  
Thank you all for the basket of love that was delivered to me. I really enjoyed it very much. Everything is useful and much appreciated. The manger scene is really clever and I have it on display in my new apt. Everyone who has seen it has been impressed. I apologize for the lateness of this response, but I have been kept super busy moving. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Love, Betty Flohr



Dear RUMC Members,

Once again you have been more than generous in your cards, special treats and Christmas gifts. Thank you just doesn't seem to be enough to say, but please know I truly appreciated all your thoughtfulness and generousities you have shown me while I was your Office Administrator.

It is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to you. I have taken a position close to my home, 5 minutes away in fact, it's going to be something new and challenging. I will miss the work I did at RUMC, because I really did enjoy the work. And I will miss many of you whom I have been able to get to know over the years. This isn't goodbye, but instead think of it as "See you around!"

Warmest regards,

*Irene*

## More Memorial Gifts

### In loving Memory of Grace Katherine Skull Rand

For the Memorial Fund: Alice Bafford  
John & Charlene Lorenz  
Lucy E. Hoffman

A donation was given to the Lunch Bunch for Mission of Mercy to honor:  
Tom & Alice Caltrider, Bev & Roger Lipp, Cathy & Tom Ritter and Kim & John Riesenfeld  
By: Sandy & Tom Thawley




## RUMC FOOD PANTRY

We handed out 220 bags of food in the month of November and served 57 at the Community Luncheon on December 7th. Don't forget to register your MVP Rewards card with us and help us earn money for food. If you would like to help at either the food pantry or the community kitchen on January 4 or February 1, please contact Lani

at 410-526-6967 or [lani05@verizon.net](mailto:lani05@verizon.net).

Thank you to The Liberty High School Drama Club, Cedarmere Elementary, Ward's Chapel UMC, Reisterstown Baptist Church, Life Point Bible Studies, The Bridge Club of Baltimore, JMT Engineers, The Harbor School, The Methodist Men, Christmas on Main Street, and Food



Lion of Owings Mills for their food and clothing drives during the holidays. It was wonderful to see our shelves fully stocked.

## Prayer Requests

### Our Church Members:

**Gordon Dix** needs our prayers for healing, he has partial blindness in one eye.

**Ginger Gelwicks** is recuperating at home.

**Bill Hedrick** needs our prayers for recovery, he's now at home.

**George Oursler** is recovering from surgery.

**Larry Short** was in an auto accident.

**Mary Smith** asked for our prayers for healing.

**Denny Trail** is back doing physical therapy for the next 3 months.

**John Trail** is having surgery for kidney stones, Denny's husband.

**Bernardine Walker** is recovering from hip surgery.

**Marion Yohn** broke her right knee on 11-12.

**Norman Yuille** is recovering from leg surgery that took place on 11/25.

### FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS OF RUMC

**Bill Albright and family** need prayers for healing and strength, just lost his wife, the mother of his 3 children, Co-workers and friends of Steve Goldstein.

**Bill** is recovering in the hospital, a friend of William Lundy.

**Julie Bindon** doing chemo for aggressive cancer, friend of Michelle Vardoulakis.

**Janice Blankenship** has a brain tumor, co-worker of Jeanne Bagwell.

**Brathwaite Family** in mourning for a passing of their loved one and healing prayers for another family member who is very sick, friends of Ronnell Went.

**Ilsa Brown** has contacted Dengue Fever, Kris Brown's daughter

**Jeanie Brown** diagnosed with breast cancer, friend of Susan Henry.

**Angela Butler** asks for our prayers for healing.

**Cathy**, Suzanne Pierce's younger sister, is undergoing cancer treatments in Florida.

**Lucille Clark** age 93, Lois Dunn-Yuille's Mother, requests our prayers.

**Lisa Dickey** needs our prayers for spiritual healing, Scott Dickey's sister.

**Terry Forman** recovering from back surgery, friend to Lois Dunn-Yuille.

**Fred** recovering from back surgery that took place on 11/25, Kate Strom's friend.

**Dottie Garvel** is undergoing chemo for breast cancer, friend of Denny Trail.

**Mark Gordon** has very serious complications from his cell transplant for leukemia, friend of Pat Wolf, who is Jan Porter's friend.

**Bill Heinrich** has lung cancer, Kathleen Goebel's brother.

**Darryl Johnson** is being treated for Lyme's disease, Penny Prentice's nephew.

## Prayer Requests Continued.....

**Carolyn Kelly**, Beth Waters' Mother, asks for your prayers.

**Betty Lentz** asks for your prayers, friend of Larry Short & William Lundy.

**Debbie Mays** recovering at home, Hazel Mays daughter-in-law.

**Tyler Mays** needs our continued prayers for healing, Hazel's grandson.

**BJ McCauley** is recovering from a broken back, Cora McCauley's grandson.

**Billy McNeiland** is in a nursing home in New Mexico, Jerry McNeiland's brother.

**Gerri Meadows** fell and broke her shoulder, needs prayers for healing, Ron Lewis' sister.

**Ruth Nelson** is recovering from eye surgery to fix extension damage from shingles, Cindy Bond's Mother.

**Bob Nester** asks for healing prayers, Tammy Nash & Lois Burton's brother.

**Rose Oakman** asked for prayers for her ailing 81-year old sister in a nursing home.

**Archie Phear**, infant son of Linda Morrison's cousin is not making red blood cells.

**Brenda Pohlhaus** is having radiation treatment for breast cancer, Louise Jackson's sister.

**Jordan Reed-Estes** needs our prayers.

**Ken Robertson** was diagnosed with cancer, friend of Lorna & Gordon Dix.

The family of **Dan Shanahan**, who passed away on Monday - lifelong friends of Barb and Dave Kehne.

**Pam Skipper**, please keep her in your prayers, friend of Ella & Don Schmidt.

**Walt Smith** has prostate cancer, friend of Tom & Debbie Paris.

Martha Spinelli prayers for healing from brain trauma.

**Stephani** needs prayers for healing and clear tests, friend of Kate Strom.

**The family of Emily Sullivan**, age 23, who passed away on 12/12.

**Emma Surber** request your prayers, Tom & Donna Surber's daughter.

**Susan**, an acquaintance of John & Cynthia Humphrey has stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

**Paul Wright** is struggling with treatment for prostate cancer, Brenda Soskin's Father.

*Names will be updated after 30 days.  
To be kept on the prayer list,  
please contact the Church Office for  
updated information.*



### DEPLOYED LOVED ONES SERVING OUR COUNTRY

**Paul Barnes**, Army in Iraq, Kathryn Jones's friend

**Matthew Caltrider** is now home from Afghanistan but is still serving his country in the Marines.

**Joshua Coleman**, United States Air force, serving in Ramstein, Germany, Rosemary Dragunas' nephew.

**Jeannie Cook**, Army, is stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington State, daughter of Debbie Cook.

**Lindley Garcia**, USMC in Afghanistan, Carol Judkins' friend

**Elizabeth Haines Greenway**, Marion Yohn's granddaughter.

**Joshua Hakakian**, Army in Kuwait, Roxanne Dalesio's nephew

**Ryan Hirsch**, Army National Guard, deployed to Afghanistan, husband to Lauren Trail.

**Jamal Jones**, U.S. Marines, deployed to Libya friend to Rachel Brown

**Vance Listwan**, AB stationed in Turkey, Rachel Listwan's son

**Dennis Mack**, Army, is serving in Afghanistan, Thelma Mack's nephew.

**Kyle Townshend**, USAF/Intelligence-National Security Agency, Pete Townshend's son

**Marcus Veney**, U.S. Army, deployed to Egypt, friend of Rachel Brown

**William Walker**, Navy, Theresa Guest's brother

**Dale Yohn**, Caterpillar Co. employee stationed in Afghanistan, Marion Yohn's son



## *Men's Fellowship News*

The month of *January 2014* has a couple of activities planned. On *Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>*, The **Men's Study Group** will conclude the study of *Living Prayer* with the discussion on *Chapter 6* (final). A *Movie Night* will be held on *January 15<sup>th</sup>*. Beginning on *January 22<sup>nd</sup>* a new study will be undertaken on *Nearing Home: Life, Faith and Finishing Well* by *Billy Graham*. From a review: "*Many people, even Christians, fear growing older. We don't like to think about losing independence and control in our lives, but perhaps learning to accept these changes is the first step in dealing with them.*" The weekly meetings start at 7 pm and are held in the Youth room of 308.

The **2014 Men's Annual Kickoff Breakfast** will take place on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall. All men and teens of the church are cordially invited to dine together in a casual and friendly gathering. The program is about exchanging ideas and the activities of Christian men living today in community. This activity replaces the Monthly Men's Breakfast on the first Saturday of the month.

All men are welcome and invited to participate and join all activities of the **Men's Fellowship**.

***\*Reaching, Learning, Celebrating, Serving\****



## *Christmas on Main Street*

January 26, 2014 at 4pm

We thank all of the music makers for their outstanding gifts in December, to celebrate once again that a holy event has taken place as Christ is reborn within us.

We will ask you to use your imagination on being able to re-experience the joy of Christmas Time without the scurrying and stress of shopping to attend Christmas on Main Street on January 26, 2014 at 4 pm.

Let us use our imagination to help us as we celebrate the wonder and glory of that first Christmas and the extraordinary gifts of the artists who will appear at our celebration of Christmas on Main Street in January.

## *St. Valentine's Day*

*An Evening of Love Songs, Dancing and Wonderful Italian cuisine.*

Friday, February 14, 2014  
6-8 pm

It's date night in the fellowship hall. Guys surprise your sweetheart with a romantic evening out. The evening will include delicious Italian food selections, music to dance to and musical entertainment presented by Maryland Sings Alumni, Genesis One, Bill Myers and other guest artists.

More information will be forthcoming soon. Tickets will go on sale in January.



**Reisterstown United  
Methodist Church**

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Pastor Vivian C. McCarthy  
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**NEW WORSHIP  
SERVICE TIMES**

**8:30 am Praise Service**

**9:30 am Grow Hour  
(Sunday School)**

**10:30 am Spirited Traditional  
Service**

**Cribbery available during all  
times for infants through toddlers.**



**2014 Epiphany Sermon Series**

**The Almighty Dollar**

Join us this Epiphany season as Pastor Vivian talks about some of life's challenges we all face.

January 12 – *Is Your Money Managing You?*  
(1 Timothy 6:9-12)

January 19 – *Intention, Intention, Intention*  
(Proverbs 27:23-24; Luke 14:28)

January 26 – *Money and Marriage*  
(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)