

NEWS FROM UNITED CHURCH

FALL CALENDAR 2000

OCTOBER

ALL CHURCH SOUB BEEF LUNCHEON AND DINNER

Saturday, October 14, 2000

Making Candy to be sold at Bazaar

Monday, October 16, 2000

Preparation of Food for Dinner

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Preparation of Food for Dinner

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Sour Beef and Dumpling .

Luncheon 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Dinner 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 19, 2000

CARRY-OUTS WILL START TODAY AT 12:00 NOON AND GO UNTIL 7:00 P.M. TONIGHT

Dinner 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Carry-Out during all serving hours

This year we are trying something new. We will deliver the dinner if you have an order of **THREE (3) or MORE** to one location and the donation for this is \$10.00 per dinner.

Sunday, October 22, 2000

You may start sending in your Memorials for Memorial or Totenfest Sunday which will be on November 26, 2000.

Sunday, October 29, 2000

At 2:00 a.m. on this day **Daylight Savings Time will end**. Remember to **turn your clocks back 1 hour** before you go to bed on **Saturday, October 28, 2000**.

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 12, 2000

This Sunday Veterans Day will be observed in both Worship Services.

Sunday, November 26, 2000

Today is Totenfest Sunday We will be remembering our loved ones at both services. There will be a Congregational Meeting on this Sunday following the 10:30 a.m. Service. The meeting will be held in the Friendship Hall with light refreshments.

If any Chairperson of a committee or group would like to put something in the Newsletter please contact the office.

COOK BOOKS

The Cook Book Committee would like to thank all of the proof readers for doing such a great job. The recipes are just about ready to go to the publisher. In the November Newsletter we will be able to give you more info. on the progress of this fund raiser.

ANTIQUe TRUNK RAFFLE

The very attractive two-tiered antique trunk, which would be right at home in any room in your home, will be raffled off as first prize. The second prize is a special one of two airline tickets to anywhere in the U.S. in accordance with the guidelines of U.S. Air frequent flyer mileage program. You will need to see the third prize in person to realize how special it is! It is a singing fish mounted on a (wooden) plaque. There's more! Just push a button and the fish sings TWO different songs. It is a real conversation piece! It was shown on network TV as one of the special good-bye gifts from Regis Philbin to co-host Kathie Lee Gifford as she retires from their morning TV show. A big thank you to Mr. Frank Tribull who donated all of the above.

The drawing for all of the above will be held on Sunday, October 22, 2000 at 9:30 a.m. Chances are one for \$1.00 or six for \$5.00. If you are interested in purchasing some chances see any church council member or call the church office. 410-276-0393 Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

HEAT FUND RAFFLE TICKETS

Anyone wanting more Heat Fund Raffle Tickets please contact the Church Office at 410-276-0393. You can still win on these tickets because the drawing will take place between Services on Sunday, October 22, 2000.

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Thanks to you we received nearly 40 responses to our mission questions on Anniversary Sunday. Your input was greatly appreciated. The Council will take this information and create our mission statement. With your prayers and the presence of the Spirit of the LORD I know we will be successful.

George Nassner, Council President

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Every Sunday morning we meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Quiet Room. We are currently studying the book of Genesis. Feel free to join us as we learn together the wonderful messages of GOD.

INTERIM INTERLUDES

It's Monday evening, time to set out the trash cans for tomorrow's pickup as well as the yellow recycle bin full of discarded cans and papers.

As I perform this weekly ritual, I think about how easy it is to get rid of our throw aways. We set them out, and when we come home that evening, magically, the plump cans are now just empty reminders of what was! They either go the big trash heap purgatory, or to be recycled and resurrected into something new.

"Wouldn't it be great", I said to myself, "if we could get rid of all of our "fear and worry" trash this easily?"

Maybe God would invent a Holy Dumpster that could handle anything that we threw into it! Maybe I could put this profound idea into God's Suggestion Box!

There's only one problem. I'm not sure I would be able to leave my trash – my worries, anxieties and fears – IN the dumpster – after all, if I didn't get them out to worry over them again, what would I worry about?

I know, I've heard the old adage, "Worry is like a rocking chair: It gives you something to do, but doesn't get you anywhere." I sometimes think these old sayings were thought up by people with too much time on their hands or who don't have enough to worry about! If life could only be that easy—

However, during my prayer time, I have noticed something interesting! When the focus of my attention switches *from worrying* that God won't hear, or take care of my fears and worry's, or resolve them the way I think is best *to listening*..... for a new Word from God my heart does feel like a weight has been lifted. Time and energy spent worrying, being fearful, just heaps more responsibility onto me, and off God. All along, it belongs in God's worry bin, and not mine!

I've also experienced another thing, that worry and fear can paralyze us, and keep us from moving and unfolding as we know we should.

Where did that kind of fear come from? Maybe we've learned the hard way to be afraid. Maybe it's something inside us that we're afraid

of. Maybe we find it easier to place our fear on somebody else. Maybe we've accepted guilt that really isn't ours. Maybe we've learned not to be trusting.

There must be another category where I fit in, because more often than not, I feel in the middle – I feel torn: I want God's love, yet I'm not sure what God's total love wants from me. I want human love, and yet I have caught myself fearing human intimacy. I want success and yet I can be afraid of what it may cost me. (Another one of those old adages – "Be careful what you pray for, you might get it!")

Right now, I'm praying for simplicity (I've started with my church study) but it is sure hard getting rid of a lot of stuff that I had put on top of my church desk for years! I keep telling myself that the sweet person that gave me that little knick-knack 15 years ago didn't expect me to keep it for the rest of my life! Yet, I wonder – what else God might want me to give up?

I've often thought, ever unable to grasp its intensity, about that fear that Jesus went through in the Garden before he walked straight into the arms of his arrest, passion and death. Maybe all he asks of us is something approaching his own honesty and effort.

As a noted author writes, "I can only walk this journey, one step at a time, knowing that God keeps me company, however murky the days may seem sometimes." I like that thought! God *is* good company too! When I realize that Christ is right there beside me, my step does have a little lighter bounce to it! For this "always being with us" is the pattern of Christ, and that's the pattern I have promised to follow, believing that this way will take me, through whatever murkiness, toward the Light.

God went to extraordinary lengths to prove to us that we do, in fact, *have nothing really to fear!* I wonder, in my prayer time, if I set out my "worry and fear trash" for God to recycle and resurrect into something new, just maybe, when I come home tonight, my plump "worry/fear" cans will now just be empty reminders of what was! With that hope clutched tight, I think – I hope – I can confront worry and fear and walk right through them, and out the other side! It's worth a try, don't you think? *Love, Pastor Corinne*

THE THREE MINUTE MINISTRY

This idea came from Terry, a fellow pastor. I like it so well, I want to share it with you!

Would you become a minister if it took only 3 minutes? Well that's what I want to propose to you – *The Three Minute Ministry!*

Here's how *The Three Minute Ministry* works: We all agree that at the end of each worship service we do NOT do any of the following:

- Make a bee-line for the door,
- Seek the folks we know well.

Instead, we use the first three minutes to seek out someone we do NOT already know. I'm surprised how many people tell me they know faces but not names!

To greet them, "Hi, I've seen you here before, but I just can't place your name (or I don't know your name.) My name is Hermaine Schmitt" or "Hello, I'm Harold Hassenfeldt. What is your name? Are you walking over to St. Brigid's parking lot (or up the street, or out to coffee)?"

And when you are the recipient of *The Three Minute Ministry*, receive it graciously. Don't make the person feel dumb by responding to their friendly inquires with "I've been a member of this church since I was born," implying they should know who you are!

Thank the one performing *The Three Minute Ministry* and share your name and your common love for this church. See how easy *The Three Minute Ministry* is! I believe many are performing *The Three Minute Ministry* already because many people speak about the warm greeting that they receive here.

And, while we are at it, why not perform *The Three Minute Ministry* with someone you haven't seen in church recently!

All of the time I meet people who say, "I used to go to your church, but I guess I've just gotten out of the habit" or "I'm not sure I know many people there any more" or "I don't live too close anymore!"

Offer to come with them, or pick them up, or ride the bus together if you can – or share that many of our members live a distance from the church. If ½ of the people I meet would come back to church, our sanctuary would be full every Sunday!

The only chance they have to become part of this great family again, is if you phone them to say you miss them, or if you go out of your way to invite them, or meet them or come with them. People come to church because of a personal invitation from someone they know!

But *The Three Minute Ministry* isn't just to be "nice" to the visitor, or the one you don't know. All of us need to be noticed, addressed, and included – visitor and member; it makes no difference. Our desire to be noticed, addressed and included arises from our lostness, our loneliness, our isolation, which is part of the human condition. We yearn to know we are sought, valued, included by God. And, members who notice those who are around them help to make God's warmth known.

So remember: *The Three Minute Ministry!*

Love, Pastor Baker

CONFIRMATION CLASS IS BEGINNING

Pastor Baker is beginning a Confirmation Class for all youth twelve years of age and older.

The class has several members already - if you know of anyone who can join us, please phone the church office at 410-276-0393 or speak to Pastor Baker.

We meet on Sunday mornings beginning in October during the Sunday School hour, from 9:15 to 10:15.

This is a great time to join with other youth to learn more about your own faith. There is plenty of fellowship, fun and faith-building!