

# *The Pathfinder*

*January/February 2013*

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” - Luke 10:27*

## **PASTOR’S LETTER**

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Grace to you and peace in this New Year as we continue in our ongoing journey of growing in the likeness of Christ. It is my hope and prayer that your Christmas was a blessing filled with the love of family and friends gathered together in celebrating the joyous birth of Jesus Christ our Savior, God’s gift of grace and unconditional love wrapped not in foil with ribbons and bows, but in swaddling strips of cloth and laid in a manger. The wonderful miracle of Christmas gives us the opportunity to rejoice and to be especially thankful for the blessing of God being with us, for us, and redeeming us. This is the good news message we are called to share with others.

This year we are going to take a close look at what we do well and see how we can continue to improve on those things. For example, most of you know we are in a supportive ministry role with the Community Crisis Center of Reisterstown by collecting not only monetary donations, but also donations of non-perishable canned and boxed food items. We have the opportunity to take this one step further. The Crisis Center is always looking for volunteers to pre-bag grocery items at their center. I personally will be volunteering my services from time to time. If you are interested in

volunteering an hour or so a week, please contact me and let me know your availability, because I will need to contact the director of the Crisis Center to schedule a time slot. Help is needed on Monday mornings and in the afternoon the rest of the week.

I am also working on providing other opportunities to engage in missions throughout the community. Each opportunity will be different so that we can fit the gifts and graces of our congregation with each particular ministry. For our people who are not able to be out in the community to participate in these ministries, there is still a very important part of that ministry that we need for you to be a part of. The most important part of any ministry is prayer. We need prayer warriors to pray that God will guide us to engage in the right ministries, that God would guide us to those who are ready to hear the gospel message, and that God would give us the right words to say when we share our faith with others in the community. These missions’ opportunities are a way to engage with others in the community, build relationships, and share our story of what God has done for us through Christ.

The Adult Sunday school class meets at 9:45 a.m. and they are doing a study in Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians to gain a deeper understanding of who Christ is and what it might mean for us to imitate Christ in our lives.

Our evening Adult Bible Study is on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. and we have been engaging in an intensive Disciple series Bible Study entitled, Disciple II, *Into the Word, Into the World*. We are winding up our Old Testament study of Genesis and Exodus. On January 9<sup>th</sup> we will be starting a sixteen week study in Luke and Acts and how we can take what we learn from this study and apply it to giving a better witness and testimony out in the world we live in. Anyone who is interested in the Sunday school class can contact either Kathy Ryan or me and if you are interested in

the Disciple Bible Study you can contact me @ 443-520-2571 or [jerrygautcher@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrygautcher@yahoo.com).

Many Blessings,  
*Pastor Jerry Gautcher*

### 2013 Deer Park Leadership Roster

**Pastor** – Gerald P. Gautcher  
**Lay Leader** – Kathy Ryan

#### **Church Council:**

**Chairperson** – Betty Roach  
**Recording Secretary** – Dolores Owings  
**Lay Leader** – Kathy Ryan  
**Lay Member to the Annual Conference** – Kathy Ryan  
**Finance Chair** – Mark Sholund  
**Treasurer** – Virginia Bowers  
**Financial Secretary** – Dolores Owings  
**Pastor** – Jerry Gautcher  
**SPRC Chair** – Mark Shelhamer  
**Trustee Chair** – Bernard Gosnell  
**Methodist Women President** – Dolores Owings

#### **Staff – Parish Relations Committee:**

**Chairperson** – Mark Shelhamer  
**Class of 2013** – Mark Shelhamer, Michelle Sholund  
**Class of 2014** – Diana LeDonne  
**Class of 2015** – Bruce Ryan, David Russell

#### **Board of Trustees:**

**Chairperson** – Bernard Gosnell  
**Vice-Chair** – Mark Sholund  
**Class of 2013** – Bernard Gosnell, Bruce Ryan, James Lundy  
**Class of 2014** – Jesse Walker, Dieter Stierhoff, Mark Sholund  
**Class of 2015** – Dwight Owings, Shirley Stierhoff

#### **Committee on Lay Leadership:**

**Chairperson** – Jerry Gautcher  
**Vice-Chair** – Kathy Ryan

**Class of 2013** – Shirley Stierhoff  
**Class of 2014** – Dolores Owings  
**Class of 2015** – Betty Roach, Charlene Cofiell

#### **Coordinator of Health and Welfare**

**Ministries** – Jerry Gautcher

**Coordinator of Communications** – Margaret Bowers

**Historian** – David Grimes

### **The Season of Lent**

Lent is the span of time in the church calendar that starts with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday commemorates the beginning of Jesus' 40-day fasting and temptation in the desert, and Easter Sunday commemorates Jesus' resurrection from the grave after his crucifixion.

Lent, then, is generally observed as a time for Christians to reflect, repent, and pray as a way of preparing their hearts for Easter. It is commonly observed by many Christian denominations—Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, and Methodists—although not every Christian church or denomination does so. Because Lent is not officially instituted in Scripture, observing it isn't in any way a "requirement" of Christianity. However, Christians from many different theological persuasions choose to observe it as a way of focusing their thoughts on Jesus Christ during the Easter season.

How does one observe Lent? It differs from person to person and church to church, but some of the things Christians opt to do to observe Lent include:

- On the first day of Lent (Ash Wednesday), some Christians **mark their foreheads with ash** as a symbol of sorrow and mourning over their sin.
- **Special worship services**, or additions to regular worship services, that focus in various ways on man's need for repentance.
- Some Christians choose to **give up a habit or behavior** during Lent as an exercise in prayerful self-denial.
- Some Christians commit to a **special devotional activity** during Lent—for example, daily Scripture reading, regular

prayer for a specific person or topic throughout Lent, or volunteer work in their community.

The choice to observe Lent is a personal one—the whole point is to focus your heart and mind on Jesus during the journey to Easter. There's no requirement to observe it, nor should you feel guilty into participating. However, millions of Christians around the world do observe Lent each year; if you've never done so, why not give it a try? Whether you observe Lent in a small or major way, you'll be amazed at what happens when you devote a part of each day to reflecting on Jesus Christ and God's Word.

## **NEWS BRIEF**

### **Cold-Cut Sub and Ice Cream Sundae Sale**

Out Sub and Sundae Sale held on October 27<sup>th</sup> was quite successful. Special thanks to Dwight and Dolores Owings who coordinated the sub sales and picked up fixings and to Betty Roach who donated the ice cream and toppings for the sundaes. Hopefully, we will have another sale in March --- check the next Pathfinder issue for details.

### **All Saints Day**

All Saints Sunday was observed on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Twelve candles were lit --- ten for members and friends who had passed away during the past year, one for military personnel and one for all who lost lives in "Superstorm Sandy". A Luncheon followed in Fellowship Hall. This is always a very special time as we remember our loved ones and cherish the many wonderful memories.

### **Christmas Bazaar**

Another year --- another success. What a wonderful way to welcome in the Christmas

Season. Heartfelt thanks to *all* who work so hard to bring this success to Deer Park each year.

### **Hanging of the Greens and "Souper" Supper**

A "Hanging of the Greens" Service was held on Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup> as the Sanctuary was decorated for the Advent Season. A "souper" supper followed in Fellowship Hall with all in attendance enjoying this special time of fellowship.

### **Christmas Luncheon**

Following Worship Service on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, members enjoyed their Christmas Luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Fern Jett selected the theme "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town" and with the help of Dave Grimes, Susan Kreft, Michelle Sholund and Shirley Stierhoff appropriate decorations adorned the Hall. The event with delicious food, gift exchange and special fellowship was coordinated by Betty Roach. It was an enjoyable afternoon and put everyone in a festive mood for the holiday season.

### **Christmas Family**

Deer Park members hosted Open House for the group "Changing Peoples Lives" on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was a fun-filled afternoon with colorful decorations, delicious food, holiday music and even a visit from Santa. Special appreciation to Diana LeDonne, Ruth Bradford and Betty Roach who coordinated this activity and to all who assisted. It is always special when we can spend time with this group and experience the wonderful things that are taking place. God's blessings to CPL --- the staff, care givers and clients who strive so hard day by day for a better life.



problems at this time. Let's remember them with a card, call or visit.

Alice Basler  
 Vera Gamber  
 Bud Gosnell  
 Beulah Hall  
 Owen and Doris Millirons  
 Parker Morrell  
 Chad Morris  
 Miriam Reter  
 Karlie Roach  
 Ellis Tinkler



### **Crisis Center**

Don't forget to bring your non-perishable food donations to Church on Sunday or mail a check to the office (Deer Park U.M. Church and mark "Crisis Center").

With the holidays and the winter months approaching the demand for community mail a check to the office (Deer Park U.M. Church and mark "Crisis Center"). With the holidays and the winter months approaching the demand for community services through the Reisterstown Crisis Center are increasing. Let's all join together to make the coming cold months more comfortable for those who are less fortunate.

### **SICK AND SHUT-INS**

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following and all others who are experiencing health

## ***A Prayer***

*Martha Epperson*

God grant that I may always see  
 Beauty just next door to me  
 In a friendly smile or a happy child  
 Or china cups filled up with tea,

Or maybe in a cheerful day  
 Or kittens on the lawn at play,  
 Some leaves to rake, a hand to shake,  
 The altar where I kneel to pray;

And beauty in a word that cheers  
 In friendship lasting through the years,  
 A harsh word spared, and sorrows shared,  
 Rainbows there to catch the tears.

So long as I can find these here,  
 These lovely things that I hold dear,  
 Youre lovely ways, our happy days,  
 I know I'll never learn to fear.

### **CONDOLENCES**

Deepest sympathy is extended to the families and friends of the following persons who passed away recently:

Mary Anne Vincett Lewis  
 George E. Phillips  
 Velma Ferne Wiseman

# CALENDER OF EVENTS

## January 2013

Sunday School at 9:45 A.M.  
Worship Service: 11:00 A.M

- 1 – New Year's Day
- 2 – Bible Study – 7:00 P.M.
- 6 – Holy Communion
- 9 – Women's Meeting – 10:00 A.M.
- 9 – Bible Study - 7 P.M.
- 12 – "Breakfast Bunch" – Martha and Mary's – 9 A.M.
- 13 – Church Council Meeting – 12 Noon
- 16 – Bible Study – 7 P.M.
- 21 – Martin Luther King Day
- 23 – Bible Study 7 P.M.
- 27 – Fellowship Sunday
- 30 – Bible Study – 7 P.M.

## February 2013

Sunday School – 9:45 A.M.  
Worship Service – 11:00 A.M.

- 3 – Holy Communion
- 6 – Bible Study – 7:00 P.M.>
- 9 – "Breakfast Bunch" – Martha and Mary's – 9 A.M.
- 10 – Deadline "Pathfinder" News – March/April 2013 Issue
- 13 – Ash Wednesday
- 13 – Women's Meeting – 10 A.M.
- 13 – Bible Study – 7:00 P.M.
- 18 – Presidents' Day
- 20 – Bible Study – 7:00 P.M.
- 24 – Fellowship Sunday
- 27 – Bible Study – 7:00 P.M.

## February Anniversaries

- 5 – David and Sally Grimes
- 17 – Owen and Doris Millirons
- 17 – David and Nancy Clements

## January Birthdays

- 3 – Carolyn Gass
- 7 – Ellis Tinkler
- 8 – Marie Risso
- 9 – Dolores Owings
- 10 – John Millirons
- 12 – John Gass
- 28 – Jocelyn Hare

## **PRAISE TO GENTLE FOLK**

*Marion Doyle*

**God be thanked for gentle folk  
Who know the art of kindness,  
Who go a step beyond their way  
To aid another in distress,  
However crowded be their day.**

**God be thanked for gentle folk  
Who know the healing word to speak  
When flesh recoils at pain's swift sting  
Or hearts are galled by sorrow's yoke.  
Kindness is a simple, blessed thing;  
God smiles through the eyes of gentle folk.**

**Note:** Deer Park has many "Gentle Folk" and we thank God for each and every one of them.

## February Birthdays

- 1 – Virginia Bowers
- 4 – Earl Cofiell
- 5 – James Lundy, Jr.
- 5 – Jeff Joy
- 12 – Hunter Summerhill
- 14 – Justin Burgan
- 17 – James Lundy, Sr.
- 21 – David Grimes
- 27 – Kim Trumpower

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**Return Service Requested**

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