



"With God all things are possible"

--Matthew 19:26

Thoughts from the Pastor's Pen

In April we dedicated a sculpture created and produced by Mr. Frank Michitisch Sr. It is a symbol of his faith and commitment. The sculpture declares to us all the message of John 3:16. God loved you and me so much that he gave his son so that we may have eternal life. This is the blessing and the promise of the faith. Take some time to stop by the sculpture and reflect on its meaning for you.

The Risen Christ Sculpture: The sculpture is placed at the back entrance to the parking lot. It is next to the arched opening built and created by Frank. The arched opening is built in the shape of three crosses reminding us of the crucifixion of Jesus. Now as people enter the church property, they enter it through the Cross. The Cross is the symbol and key to our Christian faith. It is through the Cross that we experience God's love. Take a moment and stand in front of the sculpture of Jesus the Risen Christ. His arms are outstretched, welcoming and reminding us of God's love and promise of eternal life. The nail holes are still in his hands and declare that this is the Risen Christ. Notice that the sculpture is placed in front of the cemetery. There we realize that Jesus stands between life and death declaring eternal life to all who pass by. We see the Risen Christ and see beyond the sculpture, the tombs. It reminds us, "Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." The sculpture invites us now to accept Christ as our Lord and Savior of our lives. Now is the time for good beginnings.

Be sure to take time and view the sculpture of the Risen Christ.

Pastor Roy

A Special Letter:

I wish to share this letter with the congregation:

Dear Pastor,

We have been very blessed over our life and know that God's abundance is given to us in many ways. We see God's abundant blessing in our family, our friends, and in God's love for us. We are blessed with abundance, because we have enough food, we have a home, children, and grandchildren, and the blessings of friends at Lahaska Church.

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Lahaska Church has an important ministry and we have decided to take our “incentive check” to be sent by the government and donate it to the Lahaska Church. The purpose of the money is to “stimulate the economy”. We think the best way to do this while at the same time thanking God for our abundance is to give the money to the church.

We want to thank you and the members and friends of Lahaska Church for the blessings, prayers, and love you have shown to us.

Sincerely,

Writer wishes to remain anonymous.

Worship Schedule & Events

Welcome to Summer at Lahaska Methodist Church!

When you go on vacation this summer, visit other churches and bring back a church bulletin to share with the congregation. Place it on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Don't forget to continue your prayers and financial support for the work at Lahaska Church.

June 8: Choir Recognition Sunday:

The choir is a wonderful and inspirational part of our worship service every Sunday. We will take the time today to show our appreciation. We are indeed blessed to have as our choir director and organist, Mrs. Virginia Hall. Thanks to both Ginnie and the Choir!

June 15: Father's Day Come and join us as we celebrate our fathers.

June 29: Holy Communion will be celebrated on this Sunday.

July 13: A **Healing Service** will be conducted during the Worship Hour on this date.

August 24: Church Picnic at Bush Park (Burnt House Hill Rd. in Buckingham) 12:30-?. Bring a dish to share. Grills and playground available on park site.

Special Summer Sermons: During July and August Pastor Lewis will be preaching on John's First Letter to the church. Take time during these summer months to read First John.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Remember, think about what Sunday would be a good Sunday for you to place FLOWERS on the altar. Be sure to sign up on the Flower Calendar in the Narthex. Cost is \$35.00, payable to Lahaska United Methodist Church. Flowers are provided by Carousel Flowers in Doylestown. Special envelopes are provided marked,

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“Flowers” for your payment. Our Flower committee is chaired by **Grace Bedine** and **Lillian Porter**.

****Anyone signing up for flowers on a particular Sunday can take them home after the Sunday service that day.**

Sunday School Information

There is no information to report at this time. Stay tuned for the September Newsletter for “Back to Sunday School” events.

United Methodist Women Information

Thanks to all the men and women and children for their help with our Spring Bazaar. We took in \$1,561.00. What a success!

Our Book Club will be held Tuesday, June 3rd at Nancy Lewis’ home. It will start at 9:30am for a breakfast and a discussion of the book, A Voice in the Wind. Please let Nancy know if you will be attending.

Our June 9th meeting will be held at the church at 11:30am. Bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

The UMW meetings will resume again in September. All ladies are encouraged to attend.

Sincerely,
Ginnie Hall, UMW President

TRUSTEES & ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL INFORMATION

The **Trustees** of the United Lahaska Methodist Church oversee and are responsible for the church property. They meet monthly and make decisions regarding our church home. **Paul Balderston** is the President of the Trustees, and if you have any questions, concerns, or affirmations please let him know. You are welcome to attend any of their meetings.

The **Administrative Council** is the governing body of our church. They oversee the programs, finances, education, and committees of the church. **Jim Murray** is the Lay Leader of the church and chairs the Administrative Council. His job is to manage the Church and work with the Pastor in providing and fulfilling our mission. You are always welcome to attend any of these meetings.

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TRUSTEES & ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING DATES & TIMES:
TRUSTEES MEET AT 7:00pm; ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL AT 7:45pm on these
Wednesday evenings: June 11 and Sept. 10, 2008.

Acolyte Information

Robin Heebner would like to extend a big “Thank You” to all the children who participated as Acolytes this year!

Volunteers for the summer are needed. When you arrive, please let the usher/greeter know you are available. A new acolyte list will be mailed to you in late August for 2008-2009. Have a great summer!

--Robin Heebner

MORE CHURCH NEWS/INFORMATION

Choir “Notes”:

It is very exciting to see so many chairs filled in our Choir area! What a devoted group of people, always cooperative, bringing to fruition all the music plans I come up with. We surely do have a good time! My heart felt thanks to all of you joyful people! Now about those filled chairs...my dream is to one day have chairs behind the piano also. Imagine the sound! Consider joining if you enjoy singing. Let’s start September with magnificent music!

Sincerely,
Ginnie Hall, Choir Director & Organist

155th Anniversary!

This is the 155th Anniversary of Lahaska United Methodist church—Details to follow in September!

Sept. 29, 2008: Annual Charge Conference at LUMC—Save the date...

Business Directory:

Pastor Roy is looking into seeing if there is any interest in creating a Business Directory for our church, showcasing the many talents and business opportunities of our church members for our church members. Please contact Pastor Roy if you are interested in adding your business contact information for this directory.

Lahaska Herald Laugh Lines

Vatican Fried Chicken

During a Papal audience, a business man approached the Pope and made this offer: Change the last line of the Lord's Prayer from "Give Us this day our daily bread" to Give us this day our daily chicken" and Kentucky Fried Chicken will donate \$10,000 to Catholic Charities. The Pope declined.

Two weeks later, the man approached the Pope again—this time with a \$50,000 offer. Again, the Pope declined. A month later, the man upped the price to 100,000, and this time the Pope accepted. At a meeting of the Cardinals, the Pope announced his decision in the good news/bad news format: "The good news is we have 100,000 for charities; the bad news is we lost the Wonder Bread account."

Eve's Steep Price

God noticed that Adam was lonely. He said to him, "Adam, I am going to give you the perfect companion. She'll cook and clean, and listen—she's perfect." Adam replied, "What will she cost me?" God said, "An arm and a leg." Shocked, Adam said, "Well what can I get for a rib?"

Happy Birthdays to Celebrate!

June: 1: Grace Ewer; 4: Lee Meyers; 8: Nancy Lewis; 11: Carolyn Farthing; 12: Virginia Bradfield, Ellnor Buckner; 18: Richard Schimpf; 20: Lorraine Wachstetter; 27: Courtney Lynn Kenderdine; 28: Sharon Bolitho, Viola Caswell; 29: Maxwell Dilks.

July: 5: Grace Bedine; 11: Dottie Masters; 15: Robin Heebner; 16: Ellen Balderston-Karp; 23: Sue Stotz; 25: Sam Schwander; 27: Gilbert Bolitho; 29: Ranee Ponniah; 31: Sean McGlynn.

August: 2: Chris Anderson; 6: Denise Kuferschmidt; 12: Fern Phillips; 13: Lindsey Farthing; 16: Joyce Kentopp; 22: Lee Irvin; 25: Mary Phillips, Catriona Law; 26: Paul Balderston.

Thoughts of Inspiration from the Editor

A View from a Pew
"What do you believe....and Why?"

By Jim Murray

First, a status report on my last discussion about “Giving and Receiving”. As of May, our financial status for 2008 is very good. We are not running a deficit. This is due to several major contributions in memory of loved ones who passed away this year. I am hopeful that we will finish this year within budget. However, the real issue and core belief is that as we continue to support a ministry in which we believe. As we do, God can and will bless us.

So, when I say something is a “core belief”, it raises an important and interesting question. What do I really I “believe” and why I do I believe it. It is a good thing to examine our core beliefs every so often and ask why we believe them. This becomes important when we need to act on difficult issues that take us to go to the foundation of what we believe in order to know the right thing to do.

Some beliefs are easy to understand why we believe. I believe in gravity and I am sure you do too. It wasn't always this way. I remember the many experiments that Gil and Cal conducted by dropping all kinds of objects from various heights. Gravity always worked; sometimes with the unfortunate result of breaking whatever had been dropped. You probably don't think much about gravity except in certain situations (e.g., I don't go jumping off cliffs and I have a very healthy respect, sometimes outright fear, of heights).

What about our Christian faith? God very much wants us to know what we believe and why we believe it. There are many verses to support this proposition:

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart 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,

Colossians 4:6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

When it comes to our “faith,” it has somehow become unacceptable to discuss what we believe and why we believe it. This is probably due, in part, to the arrogance and unkindness with which people speak about their faith. Some Christians can be guilty of being quite unkind when they speak about what they believe and why they believe it. I love the two verses above where it is quite clear that the **manner** in which we answer questions about our faith is just as important as the answer itself. We as Christians are told to answer with gentleness, respect, full of grace and “seasoned with salt.” The phrase “seasoned with salt” is an Eastern phrase that means “to say what you mean based on truth.” There are too many examples where Christians do not behave as they should in giving an answer about what they believe. Are they

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justified? I have trouble finding verses that says we are to judge and condemn others in a vicious and unloving manner...still it happens.

What is truth? Well, we never will fully answer that question in this life but it should be an important part of the journey of our lives; we should always be on a quest to seek out and embrace truth. I can tell you one "truth" that I firmly believe (besides gravity); I believe that the Word of God is truth. I don't take this on "blind" faith. I resisted the temptation to cite chapter and verse that would support why the Word is Truth. My belief about the "Word as Truth" comes from years of putting the Word to the test to see if it really is true. You may disagree with that belief or some part of the Word of God. If you disagree with me then I respect your belief. I'd love to hear what you disagree about and why. It is good to question and to challenge; this goes back to the verse in I Thessalonians 5:21 above. I urge you to do the same for the really core issues of our faith...put all things to the test and hold on to what is good. It may take a long time to really understand some issues but God has promised that if we seek then we shall find (Matt 7:7; Luke 11:9).

So why do people get "nasty" when it comes to matter of faith? I don't really know the answer but I have a few ideas. People so often speak without thinking. I stand guilty of making that mistake far more often than I care to admit. People can sometimes feel threatened when they are questioned about what they believe and can get quite defensive. Again, I stand guilty of the same...just ask my family. People can be so quick to judge and condemn others when they think they think that the other person is "wrong". We need to be careful about making snap judgments...what do we believe and why do we believe it? Can we learn something from the other person? As soon as we react negatively to someone then we close the door to learning anything or being able to share with that person why we may disagree with them and what we believe is truth. We need to listen carefully to others considering what the other person believes and why they believe it with dignity and respect. We may still disagree but we can respond with gentleness, respect, full of grace and "seasoned with salt.

This issue of what we believe and why we believe it cuts to another important question: how is "faith" different from "religion?" I will leave that question as the topic of another discussion. For now, go forth and seek "truth". I suspect that you will often confirm what you already believe but the exciting part will be when we learn new truths and your life will be better for it.

Jim Murray

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Profound Points to Ponder...

- Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church.
- If you're headed the wrong direction, God allows U-turns.
- If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again.
- And finally, looking at the way some people live, they ought to obtain eternal fire insurance soon.

Sincerely,

Sarah M. Brundage, Editor ☺

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT L.U.M.C. NEWSLETTER:
SUNDAY, August 10, 2008**

Please e-mail or submit in writing any items you would like printed to: SAASHA1@comcast.net