

MARS MEMO

AUGUST 2009

SUNDAY WORSHIP:
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2
FELLOWSHIP HALL
8:30 A.M. & 10:00 A.M.
NO COMMUNION THIS DAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9
BACK IN THE SANCTUARY
8:30 A.M. & 10 A.M.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
SANCTUARY
8:30 A.M. & 10 A.M.

God to begin His work of renewal, we are promised to experience the fullness of His joy. May God fill you with the fullness of His joy – this day and forevermore!

For the Glory of God,
Rev. Nathan Esser

Mars United Presbyterian Church
232 Crowe Avenue, P.O. Box 805
Mars, PA 16046
724-625-1365
Email: marsup@mars-up.org

Website: mars-up.org

A Renovation of the Church & a Re-Working of the Heart

With all the excitement and challenges we have experienced during our church renovation, I've been striving to keep in mind a matter more important: a renovation of my heart. I'll say more about this in a moment.

I also want draw attention to an aspect of the renovation that truly warms my heart. We have been so blessed to share in the many wonderful talents from those in the church. As a result, the completion of this project means significantly MORE than it would if we had paid someone to do all the work. In the end this project will resemble the workings of a quilt. Like the numerous stitches, the countless pieces of fabric, unplanned obstacles, the challenge to meet a

deadline, the renovation's many pieces have been meshed together to form something beautiful. The beauty is not only the finished product. It's also part of how we arrived at the finished product. This renovation required a lot of time, flexibility, patience, cooperation, and understanding for the many committees and individuals to make it work. I am blessed to witness the hands of this church at work.

I am reminded of the words of President Teddy Roosevelt. "Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty... I have never in my life envied a human being who led an easy life. I have envied a great many people who led difficult lives and

led them well."

The challenging work of the renovation also represents the work that God desires to do in our own hearts. Each day God works in our hearts to tear down walls that we have built up over the years, rebuild with love, and furnish with faith and hope. The finished work and final goal is that our hearts are reshaped, filled, and renewed. Ezekiel 36:26 states, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

The work that God desires to work within us is never easy. But, as President Roosevelt reminds us, it is well worth the time and struggle. When we invite

Building Renovation– Financial Update

Current giving shows that we have received \$10,500 in financial gifts for the cost of our building renovations. Thank you for your gifts and prayers. Our goal is to reach \$30,000, therefore, we NEED your CON-

TINUED financial and prayerful support. Please consider giving a gift or ADDITIONAL gift to the renovation fund. Gifts of \$500 or more can be given in someone's honor, if requested, and also recognized with other memo-

rial gifts on our memorial plaque. The building project is nearly completed and excitement is beginning to rise! Gifts for the Building Fund should be designated as "Building Fund" in the memo of the check or on the envelope.



MARS MEMO

NEW WILMINGTON MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

I would like to share with you all how I was refreshed by my week at the New Wilmington Mission Conference, a Presbyterian based, national conference. There were many different topics, speakers, and worship styles, but what refreshed me was a thread of common themes between them. That refreshing common thread was stories of faith, a casting off of fear, and a missional vision for the church.

Stories of faith are experiences shared by fellow Christians of ways they are seeing God work through the church. Experiences like that of a group of people who took it upon themselves to house a recovering alcoholic, who saw him through countless relapses, but eventually saw him come to know Christ through their love and is now sober. Hearing countless experiences like this was refreshing because it is a clear example of how God is using the church today. It strengthens our faith to share with each other ways that the Gospel is going out among us. Our stories don't have to be that of amazing

conversions, but even the seeds we have planted. How often do we share our faith stories with one another? How often do we confess our sins to each other? Or share how God has brought healing to our lives? Is God not among us? (HE IS)

Second, I was refreshed by the casting off of fear that has taken over our lives and our churches. An Iranian man shared how he came to know Christ and has become a minister in the U.S. and evangelizes to the Muslims in the Middle East. He shared how the media has gripped American Christians with fear of the Muslim world, and how we generally see Muslims as a lost cause. He also shared how Muslims are suffering from the violence in their countries, and how they have opened up to Christianity as they question their own faith. More Muslims have converted to Christianity in the Middle East in the last 15 years than in the history of the region combined. So many of us respond to those who

are most in need of God's love with fear. The poor, the homeless, and the addicts, are in need of God's love. Sometimes we think that only those really hardcore Christians in cities are supposed to care for them right? Is our God not stronger than these earthly problems? I think that Satan



is using fear to paralyze God's church.

Lastly, I was refreshed to see a vision for a missional church. Many of us talk about the importance of practicing missions in our local community, but it can be a hard thing to accomplish. The speakers challenged us to seek practical ways to get involved, but more importantly, to shift our entire perspective on the church. Being a missional church isn't so much about having

the right outreach program or giving money to the poor, but caring on a personal level for those around us. The church must not be reduced to a social club. This statement has challenged me: "Aside from the worship of God through Christ, the church exists not for those *inside* the church, but those *outside*." How much of our time, resources, and committees are dedicated to serving those in the church vs. those outside the church?

Hopefully this article has been refreshing to you, as I have been refreshed by these insights shared with me at the New Wilmington Mission Conference. Finally, I encourage all of you, adults and youth alike to attend NWMC in the future. Even if you can only travel to the conference for one day, or one evening speaker, your time will be well spent.

Sean Brubaker
Youth Director



*Glade Run Food
Pantry Collection
is the First Sunday
of the Month.
Please remember*

MARC VOIT—OVERCOMING OBSTACLES!

“No excuses” has been his motto throughout his life. Marc Voit has endured a lifetime of stars from scars that cover much of his body from a house fire when he was just three-years old.

Today, Marc is an American Airlines pilot, a clinical nutritionist and a local trainer., as well as a registered U.S. Professional Triathlete and Duathlete.

Marc is 40 years old, married and has four young boys. Spare time doesn't exist

in Marc's vocabulary.

Baring any work-scheduling conflicts, Marc will join us for Worship on September 13 for Rally Day and be our speaker. His story will inspire all of us to “overcome obstacles”.

“Listen my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path. Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor and drowsiness clothes them in rags” Proverbs 23:19-

21

Choosing what we put into our bodies, choosing how much we put into our bodies is a powerful determinant to our health fate. It determines how we burn the fuel and is crucial to keeping God's temple in Optimum condition. Choice or Free Will is one of the greatest gifts from God. This scripture stresses the importance on being wise in our decisions.

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

Tarry and Talk hosts: Worship Committee: Sue Morris, Christi Augustine, Alice Leon-berg.

Muffins:

2— Erin and Robert Kling

9— T. & P. Kennedy, L. Lees

16

23— T. & P. Kennedy, L. Lees

20

Nursery:

2— Colleen Morris

9—Jennifer Esser

16—Christi Augustine

23—Amy Doz

30—Bonnie McElhinny

Altar Flowers

2—Gloria Utz

9— Sue Morris

16

23— Patricia Jackson

30—Elizabeth Walker

Van Driver: 2— Gloria Utz

9, 16,23,30—Bill Guesman

Greeters:

Elder: Christi Augustine

Deacon: Jenny Ivory

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning, Alex.'

'Good morning, Pastor,' he replied, still focused on the plaque. 'Pastor, what is this? The pastor said, 'Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.' Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, 'Which service, the 8:30 or the 10:45?'

PEACH FESTIVAL - AUGUST 21—NEW PRICING!



We are happy to announce new menu pricing options based on suggestions from prior year supporters of our annual fundraiser:

All you can eat peaches and ice cream: Adults \$7.00; Children 6-11 \$5.00; 5 and under Free.

Sandwich and Beverage: Adults \$4.00; Children 6-11 \$3.00; 5 and under Free.

The works: Ice cream, Peaches, sandwich and drink: Adults: \$10.00; Children 6-11 \$7.00; 5 and under Free.

Additional sandwiches, beverages and bake sale

items will be available to purchase, as well as our fresh, homemade peach ice cream. The peach ice cream will be a separate item due to limited availability.

Please remember to plan to donate some of your home baked goodies to the bake sale which will be organized by Nancy Huggins.

We look forward to this much anticipated day of food and fellowship for all! See you there!



Deacons' White Envelope collection is to provide emergency assistance to those in the community who are in need. This collection is taken up on the first Sunday. Requests for assistance may be made by contacting Pastor Nate, or a Deacon.

MARS UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 805
232 CROWE AVENUE
MARS, PA 16046

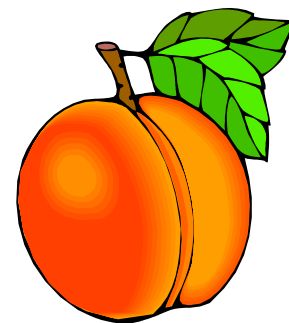
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
MARS, PA PERMIT #8

We're on the Web:
www.mars-up.org

Peach Festival

Friday, August 21

11am-7pm



menu: Peaches, ice Cream, cakes, pies,
hamburgers, hotdogs, bake sale, beverages &
again this year:

homemade peach ice cream