

***So. Montrose Community Church
July, 2013 Newsletter***

Message From Our Pastor....

This month my thoughts go to poverty, peace, and justice for all. I was reading Philip Yancey's book, "The Jesus I Never Knew" and Monika Hellwig lists in Yancey's book several advantages to being poor which I want to share with you this month to get us thinking how we as a congregation can be proactive in our ministry with the poor and the people on the margins.

1. The poor know they are in urgent need of redemption
2. The poor know not only their dependence on God and on powerful people, but also their interdependence with one another.
3. The poor rest their security not on things but on people.
4. The poor have no exaggerated sense of their own importance, and no exaggerated need of privacy.
5. The poor expect little from competition and much from cooperation.
6. The poor can distinguish between necessities and luxuries.
7. The poor can wait, because they have acquired a kind of dogged patience born of acknowledged dependence.
8. The fears of the poor are more realistic and less exaggerated, because they already know that one can survive great suffering and want.
9. When the poor have the Gospel preached to them, it sounds like good news and not like a threat or scolding.
10. The poor can respond to the call of the Gospel with a certain abandonment and uncomplicated totality because they have so little to lose and are ready for anything.

Who are the poor? What makes a person poor? There are those who live in humble circumstances who are "rich" beyond measure. The genuinely poor are those persons who are robbed of the ability to make choices for themselves.

The United Methodist Church declares that peace with justice will be celebrated when all people have access to adequate jobs, housing, education, food, health care, income support, and clean water.

The United Methodist Church will also celebrate when structures and systems that reflect economic exploitation, war, political oppression and cultural domination no longer exist.

We have a high calling of being true to the biblical message which includes fighting poverty and promoting justice and peace for all. While most of the poor live in urban areas, the percentage of people living in poverty is higher in small towns and rural areas very much like our county. The rural poor are less visible because they live scattered throughout the county, on the dirt roads, in low income housing, in isolated villages, and on hillsides where income is typically based on agriculture and manufacturing.

Ministry with the poor is all about relationship. As the saying goes, "People don't care what you know until they know you care." So, how can we open our church doors for ministry with the poor? First, we have to open our own eyes to really see the needs around us. Second, respond with compassion. Third, become sensitive to the injustices around us. Fourth, be in connection with community agencies so that we can work together to help one another.

During the summer months there are many family needs in our community.

Donations to the Women's Resource Center and the Food Bank truly makes a

difference. The free will offering during our Block Party on July 21st will go to the Back To School Shoe Program sponsored by Interfaith. There are many children in our county that would not have a good pair of shoes for the year if it wasn't for the ministry of interfaith.

Thanks to Chris and her staff of dedicated volunteers, we will begin Soup Night in September. People have already asked when Soup Night will start again because they miss the worship, fellowship and the free meal that helps them over the hump.

Let us keep our community in our thoughts and prayers this month. Let us visit our neighbors to see how they are really doing?

Blessings, Pastor Jane

Vacation Bible School A Success!

South Montrose Church and Montrose Methodist Church held a combined Vacation Bible School the week of June 16th. It was held at Montrose Methodist, and was a wonderful week of fellowship, music, crafts, science and food. There were around 30 children and many helpers from both churches. The theme of VBS was Everywhere Fun Fair. The children "traveled" to Japan, Zimbabwe, United Kingdom, Mexico and Australia. They learned that everyone is our neighbor, and that neighbors are friendly, giving, bold, welcoming, and forgiving. It was so wonderful to hear them sing and watch them dance with their leader Telly Ticket and her friend Godwin Merrifeather. Everyone really enjoyed themselves, and there was a lovely program the last night for family and friends. A big thank you to Karen Hellmuth, Nikki Rhinevault and Chris Smith for organizing a great VBS!!

Block Party

You are personally invited to a day of fun right here at SMCC on July 21. We will start off the day worshipping outside at our regular 9:15 time. It will be a full worship service like our usual Sunday mornings but out in the fresh air, in a casual setting. Maybe you know someone you've been wanting to invite to church but weren't sure how or when to ask them. Here's your chance.

Then, come on back from 2:00-5:00 pm for our block party. We will have a bounce house, face paintings, corn hole & washer games, basketball and music for listening to or dancing to. We are going to be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks and an ice cream sundae bar. Pastor Jane will invite us to take a break from activity & eating at 3:30 for a devotion time. We have such a wonderful church, caring church family, and a lovely community. We have a lot to be thankful for. I hope it will be a fun new way to show God our praise.

So, what can you bring?.....your family & friends

What should you wear?.....casual clothes. Socks for jumping in the bounce house & your dancing shoes for dancing!

What is the cost? IT'S FREE!! If you would like to make a donation that day, we will be donating the money to the Back to School Shoe Program sponsored by Susquehanna County Interfaith. As a kid, getting new shoes for school makes you feel proud & excited to start a new year. We can help kids right here in our community who would appreciate some brand new kicks!

Can I help? YES you can. We will need people to take turns grilling, helping at the various activity stations, setting up & cleaning up. If you'd like to

help please see me at church or email me at mrssmith_chris@yahoo.com. Excited to see you there.

Chris Smith

Blueberry Festival

When: Friday & Saturday, Aug. 2nd & 3rd

The So. Montrose Community Church supports the library by having the morning bakesale. We need baked goods of any kind: cookies, brownies, cupcakes, muffins, breads, fudge, etc. (note: chocolate melts easily in the heat)

Baked goods can be dropped off at the church on Thursday, August 1st between 2 – 7pm, Friday 6:45 – 8am or on the green on Friday, August 2nd. Please see Mary Torney or Gussie Fritz

Person In The Spotlight **Quentin Kraynak**

I was born on November 19, 1963 in Kingston, Pa. I grew up in Larksville, Pa. I attended Wyoming Valley West until 6th grade then my parents enrolled me in Bishop O'Reilly High School where I graduated from in 1981. My interests were football, track and wrestling...football being my favorite. When I got out of school, I became an apprentice lineman with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. I became a journeyman lineman in 1985 and am currently employed at Penelec as a lineman working on building and maintaining power lines. I like to spend time with my wife, Denise and my children. My hobbies are fishing, hunting, gardening, boating, making maple syrup and raising farm animals. My idea of vacationing is every day that I'm home. Everything I enjoy is there or a short drive away.

I grew up catholic as were my parents and grandparents. They all had a strong faith, so growing up in that environment, my faith was strong naturally. My belief is that if you make decisions based on God's law, your troubles will be few. If bad things happen and they will happen, I know that Christ has my back. I enjoy reading the Bible and have many verses I favor: especially like the 4 gospels and the actual sayings of Jesus. I'd have to say my favorite is about the two thieves on the cross next to Jesus when the one stands up for Jesus and Jesus says, "today you will be with me in paradise". I believe that holds true today. If we stick up for Jesus in an indifferent world, we will be with Him in paradise.

I am truly blessed with a beautiful family. I enjoy being a father and teaching my children how to live under God's law and prosper. I also like to teach them about the God's natural beautiful and watch them enjoy their lives.

The Name Above Every Name

By Chris Smith

I smoked my first cigarette when I was 16 years old riding around town in a car with some of my other 16 year old friends. It tasted quite nasty actually. But then I smoked again the next day and apparently for a few more days because I don't really remember when I considered myself "hooked on" smoking or if I even did for a while. I worked in a small diner and most of the customers smoked and they didn't seem to think it was a big deal. I even made my sister Lindsay try one at one point. (My idiotic thinking was that if she tried it, she wouldn't be able to tell on me to my dad.) He eventually found out anyway.

I kept right on smoking after that. I wasn't just addicted to nicotine. I liked smoking. I thought it helped me chill out. I thought coffee & cigarettes were an awesome combination. I had habits of when to smoke. I smoked in my car, I smoked on my breaks from work, and I smoked after I ate. I met Tim when I was 20 years old and he hated cigarette smoke. He liked me enough to put up with it I guess. But I couldn't smoke in his house. So when I was at his house I'd go outside to smoke.... spring, summer, fall or winter.

But the smoking part is only 1/2 of this story. I have to backtrack a little bit. I love Jesus. I always have. I don't remember being saved like some people do. I don't ever remember not believing in Him. For that I am so grateful. I have gone to church my whole life, Sunday School, worked at Sky Lake, sang in the church choir & said my prayers every night before bed. I called myself a Christian and am certain I was.

On February 14, 2005 I found out I was pregnant for Levi. Finding out you are pregnant brings on every possible human emotion. It also reminded me of how much more I needed God. I started praying more. For the next few years I prayed about more things and more often. I began to feel much closer to God. Also around this time I started reading my Bible everyday and making it a personal goal to understand what I read and worship God through it. I also started watching Joyce Meyer every week day and learned a ton. I am thankful for everything I learned from her TV program. It literally changed my life.

I was applying everything I read in the Word but I don't know if I was filled with the spirit as some say. I had a conscience that I know was from God

and tried to listen to it. But I had never heard Him speak to me personally or "felt" something was directly from Him. That all changed on June 29, 2009. Chloe was 2 years old. She was playing with a big girl purse she had got from Aunt Paula for her birthday. I was sitting on the steps to my front door smoking. She kept coming to the door to show me what she was putting in her purse. She had a pretend cell phone, lip stick and some dollar bills. She then asked me if she could put cigarettes in her purse. Just like Mommy. That was a stab to the heart.

A few minutes later I was washing the dishes and I heard the Lord. He said, "I am done watching you smoke." That's it. That's all He said. Yet I knew it was Him. I cried. I don't know how to explain what I felt. I was amazed, surprised, happy, scared, nervous, and thrilled all at the same time. I was disappointed in myself and yet incredibly thankful to God for protecting me for 16 years of bad decisions.

I had tried to quit before. I tried cold turkey many times. I tried the patch. I chewed that disgusting nicorette gum. I tried smoking 1 or 2 less a day until I didn't smoke at all. None of that had ever worked. So that same day that the Lord spoke to me, I went and got my Bible and prayed while Levi & Chloe took their nap. I simply said, "show me how, Jesus." He said, I have the name above every name. From this moment on every time you want a cigarette pray in my name." I ripped all the cigarettes that I had left and threw them away. And from that moment on when I wanted a cigarette I spoke things out loud (if I was alone & didn't look like a crazy lady.) I would say things like, Jesus has been given the name above every name. That in and at His name every knee must

bow, from Philippians 2:9-11. I would say, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13. I would also read John 14:13. In that verse Jesus promises to grant what ever we ask for in His name, presenting all that He is.

There is power in His name. I am here to tell you that God worked a miracle in me. After 4 days I did not have another craving. Ever. But what other benefits besides being smoke free for 4 years have I gotten from listening to Jesus' voice that day? I have learned to respect God and His word more. I have learned to love and reverence His name. I learned to trust Him. I needed that close relationship with Him the next year when Tim was diagnosed with cancer. I needed Him to show me new ideas He wanted me to try. I trust Him to watch Levi and Chloe and protect them. I prayed for Lindsay to get pregnant. I prayed for Lindsay's babies to be born healthy. I released all of those prayers in faith. Faith that came from experience with Jesus. I am more thankful for little things. I am thankful for big things.

Psalm 138:2 I will worship toward Your Holy temple and praise Your name for Your loving-kindness and for Your truth and faithfulness; for You have exalted above all else Your name and Your word and You have magnified Your word above all your name.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters of the
Scranton Wilkes-Barre District:**

As Children of the Creator on the journey of faith we all seek to listen acutely and respond appropriately to God's call upon our lives. After prayerful discernment, I have come to the decision to step down from the role of Superintendent. I believe that

continuing in the Superintendency would not be the most effective use of my gifts and graces. I have been blessed on this part of my journey meeting and working with so many on the Scranton Wilkes-Barre district whose faith and witness for the mission of the church have been strong. Yet, in order to find greater fulfillment and joy in ministry I feel it is in my best interest to utilize my gifts in other ways.

After consultation with the Bishop and the Cabinet I will begin a renewal leave effective July 1, 2013. The Bishop and Cabinet are working on coverage for the needs of the District as they plan for the future. In addition Scranton Wilkes-Barre District is blessed with our two very capable Assisting Elders, Deborah Rose and Don Roberts who will be continuing their excellent work in helping to lead the District.

It has been a privilege and honor to be able to be in ministry with all of you on the Scranton Wilkes-Barre District. I will continue to keep you in my prayers as you continue the work of building God's kingdom here in Northeastern Pennsylvania as we continue to make Disciples of Jesus and transform the world in positive ways.

May God continue to bless you all on the journey ahead.

Jon J. Buxton

**LETTER FROM BISHOP
JEREMIAH PARK**

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it." (1Thessalonians 5:23-24, NIV)

Dear Clergy and Laity of the Susquehanna Annual Conference:

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Risen Christ, Prince of Peace, Healer of our Brokenness, and Hope of the World!

Last evening, June 24th, I met with the District Committee on Superintendency of the Scranton Wilkes-Barre District to inform them that the Rev. Jon Buxton has requested to no longer continue as the District Superintendent effective November 1st, 2013. Rev. Buxton had served this past year as the District Superintendent of the newly formed Scranton Wilkes-Barre District and previously as the District Superintendent of the Scranton District. Please know that, starting July 1st, he will utilize the next several months for a time of vacation and renewal.

After a period of much prayer and spiritual discernment, Rev. Buxton has come to the conclusion that his gifts and graces can be best used to glorify God in pastoral ministry rather than in the ministry of extensive supervisory roles and functions as a superintendent. The Cabinet, the members of the Scranton Wilkes-Barre District Committee on Superintendency, his colleagues and I all agree that Jon has demonstrated excellent gifts and graces for ministry as a pastor. Everyone who knows him can speak of his loving care and compassion for people, his outstanding preaching skills, his strong commitment to missions and social justice, his deep spirituality, and first and foremost, his "pastor's heart."

On behalf of the Cabinet, the clergy and laity of the Susquehanna Conference, we all want to express our appreciation for the presence and ministry of the Rev. Jon Buxton as a District Superintendent during these past two years. He has extended himself to fulfill the many demanding responsibilities of a District Superintendent in the midst of the challenging transition into a new conference and the reconfiguration of the districts from eleven to seven. I know that you want to join me in thanking Jon for having served the Cabinet, the Scranton Wilkes-Barre District, and the conference at the most critical time with a servant's heart, faithfulness, and grace.

The Cabinet and I have begun to make

arrangements for coverage of the district until a new district superintendent is identified. The appointive cabinet along with the two assisting elders in the district will provide oversight and direction during this time of transition. In the meantime, the clergy and laity of the district are asked to contact the district office, Monday through Thursday, 9 AM to 3 PM in regards to any questions or concerns. The Administrative Assistants will make any necessary contacts either with the assisting elders or with the other district superintendents as deemed appropriate and necessary. Each week, there will be a time when one of the District Superintendents will be present in the Scranton Wilkes-Barre District office.

I would kindly request that during this time of transition that you pray for Jon, Barbara and the family. Your expression of appreciation to Jon for his ministry during these past two years would be deeply appreciated. Please pray also for the Cabinet and me as we discern God's intention for the next leadership of this very important district within our beloved annual conference.

May God continue to richly bless and honor the Rev. Jon Buxton, his family, and his ministry.

Jeremiah J. Park

BIBLE VS CELL PHONE

- *What would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?
- *What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- *What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- *What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- *What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- *What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- *What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?
- *What if we used it when we traveled?
- *What if we used it in case of an emergency?

*This is something to make you go...hmm...where is my Bible?
 *Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.
 *Makes you stop and think, where are my priorities? And no dropped calls!
 When Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you!
 (Worcester/Westford UMC Newsletter)



Our Prayers

In the church: Phyllis Valentine, Sally Ayres, Dawn Arnold & family, Melba Watkins, Joyce & Don Blaisure, Nic Remington, Harry Snell, Theresa Owen, June Allen, Craig Estelle, June Bishop, Marian Nye, Alice Porter, Belma Herrala, Doris Sebring, Doris Larnerd, Bob Dalrymple, Gladys Barber, Peggy Wood, Kathryn Sterling

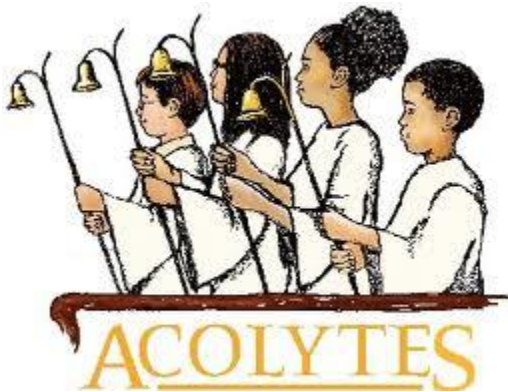
In our community: The Lee Family, Eleanor Lawyer, People of Oklahoma, Arden Baker, Jean Weaver, Wayne Littlejohn, Debbie Bush, Jim Ochse, Joanne McCain, Sarah and Bill, Tina Barton, Robert Atticks, Sr., Alan McCarthy, Liz Oliver, Reva Cline, Corey Hollister, Julie Fair, Noah & Naomi, Randy Ward, Mary Helen Booth, Tom & Carolyn Reese, Dewey Hunsinger, Keith Pratt, John Paul Jones, Helen Crotta, Charlotte Maxey Ellis, Lisa Steele, Aaron Olah, Dee Pierson, Dick Millard, Duane Snell, Helen Petersen, Debbie Brewer, Terri Franks, Butch Rosenkrans, Jonathan and Daniel Snell, Katherine, David & Mary Ann Pierce, Sarah Manzer, Sterling Barefoot, Les Hawley, Josh Capwell, Helen Grick, Mary Ann Solonowitz, teachers and students, those in the military, the unemployed, flood victims and flood relief workers, those in nursing homes, people in prison, our country, our world, our church and each other

Donation Reminder

Donations for Women's Resource Center and the food bank can be put in the boxes in the back of the church.
 Thank you!

Special Music This Summer

With the choir being on vacation for the summer, anyone interested in doing "special music" during the worship service would be appreciated. Please let Charmarie know the dates you're available.



Acolyte & Nursery Schedule

7/7 Kohen & Denise Kraynak
 7/14 Matthew Hinds & Chris Smith
 7/21 Tanner & Brenda Frystak
 7/27 Korena Kraynak & Mary Hinds

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<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/southmontrose/>