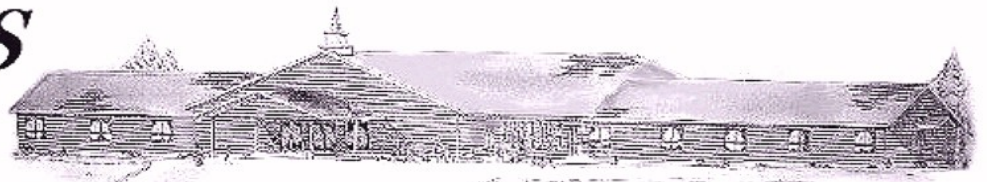


CONLEY'S



CONNECTIONS

December 2011

CELEBRATE the SEASON

OPEN HOUSE at the PARSONAGE

You are invited to visit the parsonage on Sunday, December 4, between the hours of 12 noon - 4 pm. Join Pastor Mike and Ann for a time of fellowship and food.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join us, Sunday, December 11, for an afternoon of caroling. We will be singing at Cadbury, in the skilled nursing unit; and then traveling to the homes of some of our members who aren't able to be with us for worship. Gather at the church at 1:30 PM and we will carpool from there.

LIVING NATIVITY

The Eleventh Annual presentation of the Living Nativity, will take place on Friday, December 16 and Saturday, December 17 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

In addition to the nativity, there will be music in the sanctuary on both evenings. Music will be provided by church members and invited guests. On Saturday evening, The Reminders will play, beginning at 7:30.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The choir will present their Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 18 at 5 PM and 7 PM.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Services

At the Church

4:30 PM- Children's Program

6:30 PM – Contemporary

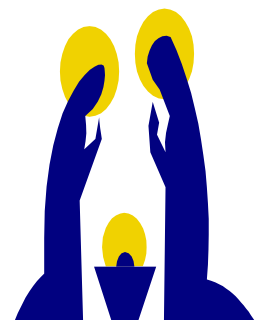
11:00 PM – Traditional

At the Chapel

8:30 PM – Traditional

Christmas Day at the Church

8:45 and 10:30 AM



FROM THE PASTOR

So Celebrate Advent

Just ate too much turkey!
Just ate too much pie!
Only one to blame for that—
You got it ... it is !!

While writing this article just after Thanksgiving Day, I realize I have a lot to be thankful for. I also remember that commercial, "I can't believe I ate the whole thing!" OK, so my little celebration got a tad bit out of control in the eating department. Truth is, sometimes we're our own worst enemy when it comes to the things we are trying to accomplish. We don't often like to admit that do we? But it is true. Let's face it, bad decisions are made every day. Not to mention the really bad decisions that others make that eventually effect us. Stuff like: gas prices, taxes, economic slumps, murder, mayhem, drugs, sin, and sickness. And that's not even counting the fact that our country is at war on several fronts. How do we deal with all this stuff and still get the Christmas shopping accomplished? How do we live the way my favorite scripture verse Philippians 4:4 says to live, "Rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice!?" Really, what do we have to celebrate or rejoice in?

Well I say celebrate and rejoice anyway!
Not because of all the above; Celebrate that in the midst of any struggle, whether the entire body of Christ or each individual believer, God is in control. And it's by faith that we will see the victory. Because we know that, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

Chapter 11 of Hebrews goes on to state that; "By faith Abel offered an excellent sacrifice."

"By Faith Enoch ..."

"By Faith Noah ..."

"By Faith Abraham ..."

"By Faith Moses ..."

By Faith. By Faith.

By Faith. By Faith.

By Faith!

Are we beginning to get the point?!

Beloved of God, we're not bound by what we see in this world. God gave each one of us a measure of faith—we just need to use the faith God gave us. Did you know that everything Jesus said in scripture was given to us so we could have peace?

This is not the peace the world offers but the peace of God that overcomes all reason. Jesus said, "In this world you will have tribulation: but be of good cheer; for I have overcome the world!"

We celebrate and rejoice because with Jesus we have overcome this world! Yes, we have difficulties (everything from pie to pride). Yes, we need to pray for resolutions for all these things. But the difference is ... we pray believing! We pray knowing that by faith we are "world over-comers!"

Rejoice! Remember Jesus came, died, and rose for our salvation in a certain time in history. And get ready, Jesus will come again in glory so that we will be with the Lord forever.

So Celebrate Advent!

Much Love,
Pastor Mike

PRAYER POINTS

A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus sake. Amen

The Prayer Focus for December is:

"Thanks be to God for His Indescribable Gift"

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Night Bible Study will take a break for the holidays and resume January 3, 2012 with a 6 week study on Hebrews and 1,2, and 3 John. We meet at 7:00 PM in the church library. Everyone is welcome. We use the Daily Bible for our readings. Contact Ellen Walker (684-0523) for more information.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

There is a lot happening this month and we are all gearing up for the busy times ahead. Please look for all the details of the GNO Auction in the January newsletter.

We try hard to put together programs that we think you will enjoy and we know we go out on a limb for some of them as we try many things for the first time. There are times we repeat something because it worked so well.....but.....what I can tell you is that whatever we do, your support has been overwhelming to us. We are so grateful to hear all your comments, whether or not we need to improve or how much you enjoyed it.. Your support has allowed us to assist many, many women and children. We could not do it without you. You all are the best!!!!

We look forward to planning and coming up with ideas for events; hoping you'll enjoy an evening out, with good clean fun and a room full of laughter. We will bring you up to date next month.

We have lost our dear Barbara Moxey as she has made her way into the arms of Jesus. I ask each of you to keep her family in prayer and keep in your heart that one day we will be with her again. I take this time on behalf of the GNO Board to honor Barbara for her dedication to this program.

We love you and wish the best for you all.....

Thanks again for all your ideas and mostly for your support!

Pat Short
President/GNO

FUNDRAISING

GOOD NEWS!!!! If you had reservations for the second bus to **SIGHT and SOUND**, we have met the minimum number of people required to guarantee the bus. We can definitely take more reservations now.

To clear up any confusion, the initial \$60.00 deposit for anyone else who may be interested in going on the trip is **DECEMBER 20, 2011**. **ALL** remaining balances for those who have not paid the entire cost of the trip is due by **FEBRUARY 23, 2012**.

We are planning on a wonderful time as the buses pull out of Conley's UMC parking lot on Jolyn Way at 10:00 AM **sharp!** The plan is to make just one stop in Pike Creek to pick up some Wilmington folks and the next stop will be the KITCHEN KETTLE for forty-five minutes of stretching and shopping for some goodies, if interested. Then we are on to GOOD and PLENTY at approximately 2:00 PM for a late lunch, early dinner, arriving at Sight and Sound in plenty of time for the 4:15 showing of Jonah. Arrival time back to church will be approximately 9:15-9:30. You will be receiving your tickets to the show on the bus. For those of you who are meeting us at the show, you will receive your tickets 7 to 10 days prior to the show.

The trip is open to anyone, not just Conley's folks. Invite a friend.....the more the merrier. A quick reminder.... **NO CASH and PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CONLEY'S UMC**. Please remember to write Jonah in the memo and give to Pat Short 8:45 service or Iris Schade 10:30 service. **Do not place the checks in the offering plate.**

We, once again, want to thank you for all the support you have provided to all the programs.

OYSTERS/ CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS

Coming your way in 2012 is the much requested dinner of scalloped oysters and scrumptious chicken and dumplings.

March 10, 2012 is an "all you can eat" evening of the goodies from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM. This will not interfere with regular Saturday evening 6:30 service.

The price will be determined after the start of the new year. Tickets will be required. Please stay tuned for information in the near future.

BRYAN CLARK

Due to a change in Bryan's appearance schedule, the date of the performance will not be April 20, 2012; as previously announced. The new date will be announced shortly. There will be a dessert buffet prior to Bryan's performance. Tickets will be \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Contact Pat Short for more information.

ACCENTS JEWELRY

We will be having a fun evening of shopping on **Thursday, December 1, 2011 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at Accents Jewelry** on Route One. Come shop and see their new lines and designs of jewelry, purses, scarfs, etc., at wonderful prices. Ten percent (10%) of the total for the evening will be donated to Conley's building fund. The 10% back is on the stores total sales for all customers for that time period, not just for Conley's folks. Bring a friend, you be the driver, make them feel special as you pick them up and help them to pick a gift for a friend or loved one.

Jewelry- Beautiful Christian jewelry, crafted by our own Jack Vogt. These pieces make wonderful gifts for Christmas and other special occasions. Display case in fellowship hall.
Contact: Jean Carpenter 645- 2977

Cookbooks- Available in the welcome center and the office. Cost is \$10.
Contact: Kathy Gurschick 945-5442
Cheryl Wood 945-9590

Bricks – Are always available and are a wonderful way to honor or remember loved ones, groups, etc. Pricing has changed as the shipping and handling is now included.
Contact : Gwen Michel 947-1155

Food Lion and Safeway – Register your VIP / Frequent Shopper cards to help Conley's earn cash rebates.
Contact : Pat Short 226-4221

If anyone has an idea that they would like to see as a potential fund raiser, please let us know.

THRIFT SHOP

We are pleased to announce the thrift store is definitely holding it's own. The month of November is above what was projected for this time of year.

Historically the months of November through February are slow in the thrift store business. Even though many of the seasonal crowds have departed the area for now, and the revenue has dropped, we are still pleasantly surprised that we are doing as well as we are.

As of the writing of this, November 22, we have taken in around \$5400.00 for the month with two about 10 days to go.. That includes the yard sale total for Saturday November 19, of \$1001.05. That total came after giving 20 percent off most purchases, and 50 percent off clothing. We also bargained with many to give an even higher discount on certain items. We are so blessed to be able to do this, through the generous donations of items by so many caring folks.

We are also so happy to have found some churches and programs that we will be supporting by offering clothing to those in need. We sort and sort and with such an abundance of offerings from so many from Conley's and neighboring communities, we are blessed to be able to support these ministries.

We were also able to provide a young and struggling thrift store in the area with many furniture items that we have had for a few months and have been unable to sell to hopefully boost her sales to assist her in continuing to serve the needs of the public. We do not look at that as competition, we look at it with yet another way to reach out and serve the committee.

We are also blessed to have three young men join us in volunteering. We welcome Michael, Joe and Nick. Strong in commitment, caring, not to mention strength and great attitudes. We look at it as two fold, as we feel they are as good for us as we are for them. They are overwhelmed with the out pouring of love and support that they are receiving from Conley's folks. We are constantly talking and working with each other to bring the spiritual side of what Conley's is all about and what giving truly means...what tremendous blessings we are receiving in so many ways.....

Amount tithed for the month of November along with the employees whose names were chosen and their charities, will appear in the January newsletter Glory to God for the abundance of grace and love that he gives is each and every day!

Thanks is a small word when recognizing the United Methodist Men and all the help they gave us at the Yard Sale, not to mention the scrumptious breakfast sandwiches they brought us. Thanks also, to the hot dog cookers and all the other volunteers who lent a hand.

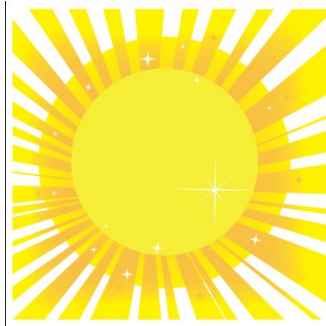
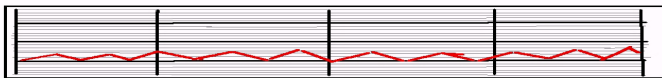
LRAC

Lewes-Rehoboth Association of Churches

LRAC is looking for a donation of land on which to build a Habitat for Humanity home with a local family in need. If you know of a build able lot in the Cape Henlopen School District, please have the owner contact Kevin Gilmore, Executive Director of Habitat at 302-855-1153, ext 201.

The LRAC Apostles Build with Habitat for Humanity just got energized. Over the summer, our three local Giant Foods stores raised almost \$14,000 by asking their customers to donate their change at checkout. The donation is designated to support LRAC building a Habitat house with a local family in need. What a blessing! Our next step is to secure a build able lot in the Cape Henlopen School District. If you know of a possible donation of land, please have the owner contact Kevin Gilmore, Executive Director of Habitat at 302-855-1153, ext 201.

HEARTBEAT OF HEALTH



I would like to invite you to become a “Sunbeam”; The Sunbeam’s is the name of a group that will be starting in January at Conley’s. They will gather at a.m./p.m. on _____ (day) each week. (hopefully Wednesday at 10 a.m.)

Many of us do not deal well with the long winter days. This group will be to help those who get “down in the dumps” in the winter get together with others with the same problem. We will use prayer, scripture and humor in a way that will “lighten” our days this winter. Everyone is welcome to become a “Sunbeam”. We will all share things that help us get through the long days: favorite prayers, scripture, poems, short stories, and songs we will listen to or maybe even sing to brighten our day.

Please join the group if you feel it will benefit you, and bring a friend if you like. Contact Sally Doak at 945-9729 or email me at if interested in joining the group.gransal@mchsi.com

Since this is my first time doing a group at Conley’s this is

the scripture I will count on to give me the courage to give it a try.

“Do your own work well, and then you will have something to be proud of. But don’t compare yourself with others.” Galatians 6:4 (CEV)

Hope to have you join this group to make our own sun shine with God’s help this winter.
Sally Doak

CPR classes will be offered soon. Watch the announcements for more information.

Conley’s UM Church
33106 Jolyn’s Way
Lewes, DE 19958

www.Conleyschurch.com
www.Conleysnews.com

Church Office 945-1881
Pastor Mike Hurley at home. 945-2438
or Annmikeh@verizon.net

Spiritual Program Director Wendy Schmitt... .644-0510
or Schmitt.j-w@comcast.net

Lay Leader

Jean Unruh945-7732

Associate Lay Leaders

Bob Marx..... 875-0182
Ed Perry.....945-0731
Kathy Gurschick.....945-5442

Cemetery - John Gladwell644-8939

Choir Director - Charlie Marshall947-0527
Thrift Store – Pat Vogt.....945-5566

Subscriptions to *Conley’s Connections* are free; to be added to the **EMAIL** list, please contact the church office. Printed copies available in the narthex. It is published to enhance fellowship and spiritual growth.

TULANE'S PLACE

Pastor O. Brangman (New Zion) and his congregation have received approval for a 4 bed shelter for homeless men in the area. They are in need of volunteers to help staff the shelter overnight. Cheryl Wood has complete details. Contact her if you are interested.

COOKIES FOR PRISONERS

The LRAC sponsored Prison Ministry will hold their annual cookie drive December 12. They are asking that all churches participate. Conleys has volunteered to give 100 bags of 10 cookies each. They should be in clear plastic bags that can be tied closed. **DELIVER TO THE CHURCH BY SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 11.** Contact Cheryl Wood with questions.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

John and Sharon Harvey with ASELSI write to let us know that over 200 people were saved in 2011, hundreds of people received the Good News via the ministry teams, work is progressing on the new clinic building, the school for Special Needs Children opened this year, ASELSI has a new website and blog. They ask for our continued prayers.

Update on the Rineholts. Shawn is back in the Dominican Republic & Haiti, recovering from the broken bones he suffered in a fall during the construction of the school there. He and Jen thank everyone for their outpouring of support and prayers during this difficult time.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 3	Micah Crenshaw
December 4	Dominic Crenshaw
December 6	Jean Minsker
December 7	Autumn Reynolds
December 9	Mary Lou Dickson Ann Reese
December 11	Kristen Steele
December 12	Walt McGinniss Elaine Perry
December 13	Bob Marker Danielle Moore
December 16	Jean McElwee Jeanne Quinn George Spillane Arlene Watt
December 17	John Gladwell
December 18	Betty Hudson Bill Schade Jim Wolfe
December 19	Dot Ellis
December 21	Myra McCormick Linda Wildasin
December 22	Annie Dant
December 24	Les Rittle Alan Walker
December 25	John Ovens
December 30	Joy Bartell

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

December 2, 1995	Richard & Doris Donahue
December 8, 1961	Walt & Louise McGinniss
December 28, 1957	Lew & Sharon Weaver
December 29, 1945	Jim & Eileen Dusek
December 31	Pierce Houchard & Louise Enright

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

1	First Place 4 Health Worship Committee	9 AM & 5:30 PM 6:30 PM
2	GNO Auction	5:45 PM
3	Fair Trade Dinner	3 PM – 6 PM
4	Food Pantry Weekend Communion Open House at Parsonage	10:30 AM 12 noon – 4 PM
5	Advent Bible Study	7 PM
7	Soup Kitchen Intercessory Prayer AD Council	11 AM – 2 PM 6:30 PM 7 PM
8	First Place 4 Health	9 AM & 5:30 PM
10	Communion	6:30 PM
11	LEGIT Coffee Bar Membership Committee Caroling	9:30 – 10:30 AM 12 noon 1:30 – 5:00 PM
13	Singing at Brandywine Advent Bible Study	2 PM 7 PM
14	Soup Kitchen Intercessory Prayer	11 AM – 2 PM 6:30 PM
15	First Place 4 Health United Methodist Women	9 AM & 5:30 PM 1 PM
16	Men's Group Living Nativity	8 AM – 10 AM 6:30 – 8:30 PM
17	Living Nativity	6:30 - 8:30 PM
18	Communion Choir Cantata	8:45 AM 5 PM & 7 PM
20	Singing at Renaissance	2 PM
21	Soup Kitchen Intercessory Prayer	11 AM – 2 PM 6:30 PM
22	First Place 4 Health	9 AM & 5:30 PM
24	Christmas Eve Services Candlelight & Communion at all services	4:30 PM – Children's Program 6:30 PM - Contemporary 8:30 PM – Traditional at the Chapel 11 PM – Traditional at the Church
25	Christmas Day Services	8:45 & 10:30 AM Communion at 10:30 service
28	Soup Kitchen Intercessory Prayer	11 AM – 2 PM 6:30 PM
29	First Place 4 Health	9 AM & 5:30 PM
31	Communion Watchnight Service	6:30 PM 11 PM

*Wishing Everyone A Merry and Blessed
Christmas
and
Happy New Year!!!!*