

Voice of the *Spire*

The Newsletter of Arch Street United Methodist Church
A Reconciling Congregation



Autumn 2013

Arch Street United Methodist Church

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Visitation Pastor

Reinhard Kruse

Music Director, 11:00 AM

Andrew Monath

Music Director, 8:30 AM

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Voice of the *Spire*

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Dale Shillito

Wilhelmina Young

From Germany to Pembroke: The Youth Mission Trip

Jennifer Miles

The Youth Mission Trip to Pembroke, North Carolina is an amazing experience every year; everybody who goes on it once knows it. And this year I also got the chance to go with eight other kids and I loved it.

I could really experience what it means to go on a trip as a group and to live and work together. Everybody helped each other and we all had a lot of fun. Even if the trip in late July was just on the second week I was actually in Philadelphia, I enjoyed every minute and found new friends and learned a lot.

We mostly did some painting at three different houses, and to see how big a difference this made and how happy the homeowners were is an incredible experience.

I am so happy that I could go on the trip with the others. In the evenings we talked about the "fruit of the spirit," which means, for example, joy, peace, and happiness; a topic that fit perfectly to our group. We got along together so perfectly—even I felt integrated into the group from the very beginning, and I had not met any of the kids before.

So—the Mission Trip does not just mean to work for people you do not know, in a city you are not living in; it means to live together and



Photo courtesy of Marge Donnelly

work together. Then, not only are the homeowners absolutely happy, you are also happy and that is one of the most important things in life. You know that you did something good and could enjoy every minute of the week.

So of course, nobody can wait until next year and I would love to come back again!

Editor's Note: Jennifer, from Bielefeld, Germany, is a relative of Rev. Reinhard Kruse. She visited the Kruses over the summer and took part in the 2013 Youth Mission Trip.



Photos courtesy of Marge Donnelly (above) and Sarah McNeil (right)



News & People

Hopewell UMC and the Grace Café Ministry

Nancy Megley

Arch Street's first Grace Café church partner was Hopewell United Methodist Church of Downingtown. This is a 1,400-member congregation, 600 of whom attend one of the church's five services every weekend. Rev. Steve Morton has been pastor for the past 17 years. The church was founded about 250 years ago and, although it can't be proved, it is said that Francis Asbury—one of the first two bishops of the Methodist Church in America—once preached there.

Hopewell is a mission-focused church. They have longstanding missions in South Africa and provide ongoing funding and volunteers to aid in Katrina and Sandy recovery. Eight years ago, they took up the Grace Café ministry at Arch Street as an opportunity for members to see need up close locally and respond to it.

Grace Café began as a partnership with the City of Philadelphia to provide a safe overnight refuge for some of the city's most vulnerable homeless persons, and Hopewell committed to provide Sunday breakfast for them. Volunteers met on

Saturday to cook, then left at 4:30 AM Sunday morning to serve a 6:30 breakfast at Arch Street. Afterward, they attended our 8:30 service before returning home. When the city partnership ended, Arch Street determined to continue Grace Café as a Sunday program of worship and dinner, and Hopewell hosts the first Sunday of the month. Now they meet at 3:00 PM Sunday afternoon to prepare the meal, caravan to the city and back, and finish cleaning up at Hopewell by 8:30.

Shauna Ridge, Director of Lay Ministries, has overseen the Grace Café program since 2007. She is aided by Dave Schwab, leader of the Grace Café mission, and Donna Johnson, who plans menus and leads the kitchen team. All three along with their team can be seen at Grace Café every month, and they have built warm relationships with Pastor Robin and Arch Street's regulars including Ken Dorsey, Bill Gatewood, Joe Kalil, "Country" Don Latham, Pat Taylor, Dottie Wells, Russell Whaley, Ray Wilson, and other volunteers as well as many of the

guests. Shauna likes to have the Hopewell team meet in our sanctuary at the end of the evening to talk about their experience. Many are unprepared for how Grace Café will affect them. They came expecting to do welcoming and are often surprised by how they themselves receive welcome. Hundreds of volunteers—Shauna estimates at least 250–300—have participated from Hopewell over the years.

Hopewell began a capital campaign for mission six years ago and Arch Street has been a beneficiary. The renovation of our ladies room last year and the kitchen this year were done through their mission funding. Shauna sees this as an example of the Methodist Connection: Arch Street provides leadership around needs in the city, and Hopewell has resources to help Pastor Robin fulfill his vision. Shauna sums it up this way: "We are called to this ministry, and we feel more blessed."

Certainly, Arch Street is richly blessed to have such a loyal and committed partner in our Grace Café ministry!



Renovations to Arch Street's kitchen were nearing completion as this issue went to press, and include the installation of a commercial dishwasher (see the Minister's Message on page 4). Much of the funding for this project came from Hopewell UMC's "Beyond the Walls" capital campaign for mission.

Music News

Andrew Monath

This has been an amazing year for Music at Arch Street UMC. The Sanctuary Choir increased in numbers from 20 to 24. If we continue that 20% growth each year for the next six years, perhaps the balcony will be filled with singers, as Pastor Robin visualized last spring from the pulpit.

The Music Center has had a very successful first year. We are teaching nine piano students and four voice students regularly. Over the summer, we had an amazing two-week choir camp with about twelve students from the neighborhood. My hope is that we can generate more interest in the Youth Choir this fall.

My biggest pride and joy of the year, though, has been the Grace Café Chorale under the joint direction of myself and Josh McHugh. Every Sunday evening since the first week of October, from 12 to 20 men and women struggling with finding



*The students presented a concert at the end of Choir Summer Camp.
(Photo courtesy of Rick Taylor)*

permanent housing gather with us to practice for an hour in Nichols Hall, and then sing in the sanctuary for the Grace Café worship service. This has been an inspiring experience and I look forward to the potential that lies within these wonderful people in the coming year.

New singers of all ages are always welcome at Arch Street. Our season runs September through June: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30–6:00 PM for Grades 3–12, Sundays from 9:45–10:45 AM for Grades 9 and up, and Sundays from 4:30–5:30 PM for singers of all ages.

Serenity House *Exploding* with Activity

Rev. David W. Brown, Deacon

If the word *serenity* is defined as being “tranquil and still,” Serenity House has been anything but!

This past summer has seen renovations, programs, and even staff changes at Serenity House, all in pursuit of its mission of serving as a “Spirituality and Holistic Healing Arts Ministry” of Arch Street United Methodist Church.

As a matter of background, after Cookman UMC discontinued its ministry, Arch Street extended its historic legacy with this congregation by starting a community ministry within Cookman’s parsonage in 2012. That new ministry, at 1209 West Lehigh Avenue, is Serenity House.

The ministry now includes an intentional community of residents who care for the house (including renovations led by skilled professionals and volunteers) in exchange for occupancy, as well as a variety of programs including two book

clubs (one for men and one for women), a fitness program, and a regular showing of movies for discussion.

Although the programs are ongoing, modernizing this residence is a constant work in progress. Led by Nancy Megley, a volunteer or paid crew can be found most Saturdays painting, building, or repairing something in the building and help is always welcome. Thanks to outreach by O, the woman who leads programs at Serenity House with Wilhelmina Young, a partnership with Swarthmore College was established this year and the House’s weed-covered backyard was transformed into a beautiful garden with the help of students from the college.

The beauty of the garden inspired the team to host its first-ever “Open House VIP Tea,” to take place Thursday, October 9th from 4:00–7:00 PM. Bishop Peggy Johnson along with other officials from

the Conference and the broader Philadelphia community will tour the renovated facility and learn the story of this dynamic ministry.

While Serenity House has been blessed with youthful, creative leadership as provided by Pavi Jaisankar (who will be leaving to focus on her graduate studies), we were pleased to welcome Zoey Bonfante to our staff in September. Zoey, a 2013 graduate of Rosemont College, has demonstrated her leadership capacity by successfully mentoring the Arch Street youth as they participated in the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia’s “Walking the Walk” program. Pavi will remain involved as a volunteer and will work closely with Zoey to ensure a smooth transition. We look forward to continued success for this important ministry.

Columns

Minister's Message



Rev. Robin Hynicka
Senior Pastor

Rethinking Grace Café

Recent renovations to the church kitchen are an outward and visible sign of an innovation in hospitality at Arch Street United Methodist Church.

The main feature of the renovations is the installation of a commercial dishwasher. Now, instead of paper plates, paper cups, and plastic ware, dishes and flatware will be used for church meals. This will create a more welcoming atmosphere, and the amount of trash and expense of supplies will be reduced substantially.

While the change will affect all of our church-wide functions in Nichols Hall, Grace Café is the main focus. An additional change in our Grace Café operation is to eliminate the long food line by engaging more volunteers to provide table service.

For all of this to work well, the Grace Café program, which serves a Sunday dinner to up to 200 of our neighbors experiencing homelessness, will require more volunteers. Currently, Arch Street

church groups and individuals, outside family groups, or other congregations volunteer to provide the meal. Additional volunteers will be needed to serve and clean up.

Hopewell UMC is one of the dedicated partner churches that support our Grace Café ministry. An article in this issue describes Hopewell's long history with Grace Café and the inspiring experience it has provided to their volunteers over the years. Ask any of our Arch Street regulars and you will hear much the same story.

Please contact the church office to be part of the growing number of folks who make Grace Café a part of their life.

Capital Campaign News: Now There are *Three*

Rev. Robin Hynicka

The members of Arch Street UMC's Church Council have approved a motion pledging \$22,600 toward the Annual Conference's Capital Campaign. That campaign seeks to address a pension funding shortfall that affects all clergy with years of service prior to 1982. Church Council decided to make the \$22,600 part of our "Be Lifted Up" capital campaign without increasing the overall campaign goal of \$800,000.

Church Council requests that all who have made "Be Lifted Up" donations prior to September 1, 2013 agree to allow 3% of their donation to be allocated to Arch Street's portion of the Annual Conference Capital Campaign. Donors are asked to contact the church office by October 1, 2013 only if they do *not* want to support the Annual Conference campaign. All donations and pledges initiated after

September 1, 2013 through to the close of the "Be Lifted Up" campaign will support both our own campaign as well as the Annual Conference campaign.

In addition to all of this, a third campaign is now being planned! The size of Arch Street's pledge to the Annual Conference Capital Campaign qualifies us for professional fund-raising counsel. After reviewing the services of the consulting firm, Church Council leaders and I decided that the free consulting would be best used to launch a "Planned Giving Campaign" alongside our capital campaign.

While the Be Lifted Up campaign seeks to raise funds for an immediate need, the Planned Giving Campaign addresses future needs by inviting members and friends to make "legacy gifts." Legacy gifts include the following: designating

Arch Street UMC to receive a percentage of your estate; naming the church as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy or IRA; or arranging for a gift of property or stock.

To date, over \$345,000 has been pledged/donated to the "Be Lifted Up" capital campaign. The installation of an elevator is the goal of the "Be Lifted Up" campaign. The Planned Giving Campaign will look to provide a more secure future for the congregation by growing our endowment.

Over the next several months, there will be numerous opportunities to donate, make a pledge, and support the mission and ministry of our church. If you have questions or concerns or want more information, please contact the church office (secretary@archstreetumc.org or 215-568-6250).

An Astounding 25¢ Gift!

Rev. Reinhard Kruse

On a trip to Massachusetts we stopped at Plymouth, pulled straight into a parking spot, and put coins in the meter for two hours of parking. After visiting the replica of the Mayflower ship, our two hours were up and I quickly walked/ran to the car. When I arrived, the meter clearly showed minus 2 minutes and I saw it click to minus 3. There was no parking authority person around, so I stood nearby looking at the ships in the bay. A lady with two children pulled up in the parking spot beside our car and she went to the meter to put in her coins.

A few minutes later, Sue arrived. I told her we did not get a ticket, but this meter

measures the amount of time you are late. Walking to the meter to check it again, I exclaimed, "Hey, this meter now has 12 minutes of time left. I don't understand." The lady turned to me and said, "Oh, I saw your meter was expired and I would not want someone to get a ticket for being a few minutes late." I stared at her, speechless, and finally came out with something like, "That is incredibly nice and considerate of you to do—that is so kind of you." She replied that she would not want someone to be shocked at seeing a ticket. Reaching into my pocket, I got a quarter to give to her, but she refused to take it. I tried to give it to her

children, but the little girl was too shy to stick out her hand. Thanking her profusely, we got into our car and she walked away.

And you know, it wasn't anywhere near Christmas time. An astonishing 25¢ gift, totally uncalled for, given anonymously, to a complete stranger.

Would you have done that? I must confess I would not, and now I begin to realize just how pitiful and pathetic some of my gifts must be in the sight of God, whose grace gives blessings to all, good or bad.

The 2013 Charge Conference

In the United Methodist Church, the Charge Conference is a congregation's annual business meeting to review the state of the church, present reports, vote on matters that require a decision by the full congregation, and elect officers and committees for the coming year. It is an important meeting and everyone is encouraged to attend. This year, churches in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference are pairing up to hold their charge conferences at a single location and date. *Please note this change of venue:*

Arch Street's annual Charge Conference will take place Thursday November 7 from 6:30–7:45 PM at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 1530 North 11th Street in Philadelphia. District Superintendent Anita Powell will preside.

Our History: The Roaring 20's at Arch Street

Dale Shillito, Arch Street Historian

1929 was a bad year for the New York Stock Market. However, it was a fantastic year for Arch Street Methodist-Episcopal Church. At the 1929 Annual Conference, District Supervisor George W. Babcock enthusiastically reported about us:

"Membership increased. Success of the church, under the present pastor [Dr. Milton H. Nichols], is phenomenal. The Sabbath congregations fill the auditorium [sanctuary]. Generally the evening service is so largely attended that many are turned away. The radio has proved a blessing to thousands who listen in. Many letters tell of the comfort and blessing received through the sermons. The

Friendly Hour, coordinated by Miss [Henrietta] Burnham, at the close of the Sunday Evening Service, is a popular feature. Many young people attending our schools and colleges in Philadelphia have an opportunity to become acquainted and made to feel at home. Noonday Lenten services held daily in the auditorium, are largely attended by people in all walks of life who drop in daily to hear the Gospel messages. Arch Street today is doing the greatest work of her history."

This glowing report is topped only by D.S. Babcock's words in the Conference minutes of 1927 and 1928. In 1927, Arch Street had 32 reported conversions. Our

offerings were the largest in the church's history (for the second year in a row). In 1928, 100 new members joined our congregation. D.S. Babcock ended his report by saying:

"[The] pastor is greatly beloved. The entire membership of the church is working together like a happy family, thrilled with the success of the past and looking forward with great optimism toward the future."

This last quote sounds to me like Arch Street UMC today!

Events

Regular Sunday Activities

8:00 AM - Nursery, 1st floor (open till 12:30 PM)
 8:30 AM - Worship, Chapel
 9:45 AM - Adult Sunday School, Chapel
 9:45 AM - Youth Bible Study, 2nd fl. Office
 9:45 AM - Children's Sunday School, Nichols Hall
 9:45 AM - Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft
 11:00 AM - Worship, Sanctuary
 12:30 PM - Get Acquainted Time, Chapel
 2:00 PM - Unity Fellowship Church Service, Chapel
 4:30 PM - Grace Chorale Rehearsal, Nichols Hall
 5:30 PM - Grace Café, Sanctuary and Nichols Hall

Weekly Activities

Monday 1:00 PM - Tea and Talk, Chapel
 4:00 PM - Community Music Program, Chapel
 5:30 PM - AA Meeting, Nichols Hall
 7:00 PM - Freedom Band Rehearsal, Chapel
 Tuesday 12:00 PM - Bible Study with Rev. Waller, Sanctuary
 3:30 PM - Community Music Program, Chapel
 Wednesday 3:00 PM - Community Music Program, Chapel
 5:30 PM - AA Meeting, Nichols Hall
 Thursday 3:00 PM - Community Music Program, Chapel
 5:30 PM - AA Meeting, Nichols Hall
 7:00 PM - Action AIDS, Chapel

Committee Meetings, Special Events and Activities

United Methodist Men meet the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM; United Methodist Women meet the second Sunday of the month immediately after the 11:00 service; the Native American Indian Awareness Group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Refer to the weekly "What's Happening" bulletin for exceptions to these dates.

October 2013

Sun Oct 6: World Communion Sunday
 Wed Oct 9: Serenity House VIP Tea
 Oct 11–13: 2013 Fall Retreat
 Sat Oct 26: UMW Trafficking Event

Submit calendar events to Nancy Megley (nmegley@msn.com).
 Listings for Winter 2014 issue due by December 1.

November 2013

Sun Nov 3: All Saints Sunday
 Thu Nov 7: Charge Conference
 Sun Nov 17: Native American Awareness Sunday
 Sun Nov 24: United Methodist Student Day
 Thu Nov 28: Thanksgiving—*office closed Nov 28 and 29 (AA will meet Nov 28)*

December 2013

Sun Dec 1: First Sunday of Advent, World AIDS Day
 Sat Dec 14: Eliza Shirley Christmas Party
 Sun Dec 15: Children's Christmas Pageant
 Tues Dec 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 Wed Dec 25: ASUMC Annual Christmas Breakfast for the Homeless—*office closed Dec 25 and 26 (AA will meet Dec 26)*

Birthdays

October

1 – Bill Carson
 5 – Joan Ferron
 8 – Carl Davis
 10 – Nicola Jefferson
 11 – George Logan
 15 – Dennis Mayes, Kalolaine Tapealava
 18 – Pat Taylor
 19 – Nemahun Tucker
 20 – Terry Whaley
 22 – Tolu Ogunkeye
 23 – Janis Campbell
 24 – Yema Tucker
 26 – Joe Gutman
 28 – Charles Fry, Siafa Lewis
 31 – Katie Donnelly, Will Jackson

November

2 – Gaspar Santos
 3 – Daniel Timmerman
 6 – Gwendolyn Beatty
 8 – Thomas Brislin
 10 – Ray Mount
 11 – Cathy Minecci
 12 – Francisco Santos
 16 – John Knox Jr., Dannyale Small
 17 – Molly McNeill
 19 – Pamela Thomas
 20 – Dorothy Twiggs
 22 – Ken Dorsey, Phil Gressman, Serafim Santos
 24 – Rev. Robert Booker, Mary Crawford
 25 – John Kitterell, Sue Kruse, David Mordell
 28 – Myrna Brown, Patti Manuel

December

2 – Regina Bedell
 4 – Aaron Carson
 6 – Kobina Amisah, Don Robinson
 13 – Richard Dudley
 16 – Fornati Bedell, Elizabeth Lexa, Bob Reeves
 19 – Gladys Ackerman, Heather Warley
 20 – Alice Ming
 22 – Carol Jones, Steve Raytek
 24 – Stephanie Ann Carroll Carson
 25 – Janice Ciampa
 28 – Juanita Campbell Ford
 29 – Barbara Prince
 30 – Zeke Sadler
 31 – Jonathan Liu

Arch Street's 2013 Fall Retreat: "Living WHOLE-ly"

Wilhelmina Young

This weekend getaway on October 11–13 is set in the perfect time of year for the Poconos, when the weather is still warm, but cool enough for light jackets, hoodies, or sweaters. After our 2½ hour drive Friday evening, we will arrive at Pocono Plateau and be greeted with the crisp smell of fall in the air as we unload the vans and enter the two-story house we will call home for two days. This house, located across the path from the main dining hall, has approximately 20 rooms with four bunk beds each. Because it will already be late, rooms will be chosen, breakfast time announced, and everyone will head for bed with anticipation for the next day's activities.

This year's theme, "Living WHOLE-ly," focuses on the physical, spiritual, and relational aspects of our lives. With facilitators Nicola Jefferson, Jordan Harris, and Deacon David Brown, we will explore these three areas and how they work together for balance and wholeness in our daily living. We will look at how we relate to God, ourselves, and others. We will stretch our minds with biblical passages, our bodies with yoga and dance, and pamper our spirits with 'innercise'. It is a time of fun and laughter with outdoor activities of hiking, rowing, and games. Some people enjoy walks; others like to sit on the porch reading or 'people watching'. The good wholesome meals are enjoyed in a family-style setting in the main dining room. The young people enjoy a bonfire with s'mores (of course!) on Saturday evening, and a Sunday morning time of devotion and prayer concludes our time together.

Because we have so much fun laughing, learning, growing, and playing together, we return from the retreat each year rested, relaxed, rejuvenated, and ready to live whole-ly in the new season of our work and mission in the church and our lives. It's not too late to sign up for this year's retreat. We hope to see you there!

Human Trafficking is Modern-Day Slavery

Margaret Harris

We invite you to join us at Arch Street UMC from 9:30 AM–2:00 PM on Saturday October 26 for information, advocacy and lunch, hosted by the Arch Street United Methodist Women. The abolition of trafficking is a priority of the 800,000-member United Methodist Women.

Victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of commercial sex or forced labor. An estimated 12–27 million people worldwide are caught in one or another form of slavery. They are young children, teenagers, men, and women. Trafficking occurs throughout the world, including the United States. Nearly three out of every four victims are women. Half of modern-day slaves are children.

On October 26, we will gather at 9:30 for registration and light refreshments, screen the acclaimed documentary *Call and Response*, and have a panel discussion with leaders in the local anti-trafficking network, telling about their work. You will be able to ask questions and learn ways you can help in the struggle. After the panel, we will have an informal light lunch. The following panelists have been confirmed to date:

Gretchen Wendel, Refugee Health Coordinator, Nationalities Service Center

Sister Terisita Hinnigan, President, Board of Directors, Dawn's Place (residence and therapeutic program for women who have been trafficked and exploited for sex)

Jamie Johns, Social Service Director, The Salvation Army (the Salvation Army has a drop-in center in Kensington)

Arielle Lopez, Anti-Trafficking Program Coordinator, The Salvation Army

The event is free and open to all, but a free-will offering will be collected to defray the cost of lunch and contribute to anti-trafficking work. Questions? Contact Margaret Harris at 215-568-2206 or margaretharris@me.com.

Native American Sunday, November 17, 2013

Dale Shillito

William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, after speaking with Lenape chief Tam-anend, concluded that Native Americans might be the descendants from the lost tribe of Israel because of the similarity of religions that he perceived. This year, Rev. Hynicka has asked that the Native American service focus on the topic: What are the similarities and differences between indigenous religions and Christianity?

To answer this question, we have called upon Dr. Owen Owens, who has written books on this and related subjects. Dr. Owens is past director of Ecology and Racial Justice of the American Baptist National Ministries. He is presently a member of Grove UMC and a representative to CONAM, the UMC Conference-level Native American outreach program. Dr. Owens has a PhD in sociology of religion from the University of California at Berkeley. He was a planning consultant for the Baptist Indian Caucus (1979–89). His passion for nature, family relations, and social justice finds expression through balance found in Native beliefs in his latest published book *Healing the Coyote in Me: The Navajo Coyoteway Blessing Ceremony*, coauthored with Rev. John Coy Cook, a Navajo Presbyterian pastor. Other books written by Dr. Owens include *Living Waters: How to Save Your Local Stream* (Rutgers University Press, 1993), *Growing Churches for a New Age* (VF Judson, 1980), and *Stones into Bread* (VF Judson, 1976). He is currently writing another book, *The Bible and Eco-Justice: Ecological Wholeness and Social Justice*.

Dr. Owens will speak at the 8:30 and 11:00 AM services on November 17. A reception and sit-down lunch, prepared by Pat Taylor and volunteers, will be held in Nichols Hall at the conclusion of the 11:00 AM service.

Future Dates

New Year's Day
January 1

Human Relations Day
January 19

Martin Luther King
Day of Service
January 20

Presidents Day
February 17

Ash Wednesday—
Lent begins
March 5

World Day of Prayer
March 7

Daylight Savings Time
begins
March 9

Follow events at the
"What's Happening"
page on our website:
www.archstreetumc.org

Arch Street United Methodist Church



Irene Meyer has recorded the offering every week for more than thirty years. At age 94, she is Arch Street's oldest volunteer.

In this issue

News & People

The 2013 Youth Mission Trip	Page 1
Hopewell UMC and Grace Café	Page 2
Music News	Page 3
Serenity House Events	Page 3

Columns

Minister's Message	Page 4
Capital Campaign News	Page 4
A Remarkable Gift	Page 5
The 2013 Charge Conference	Page 5
Our History: The Roaring 20's	Page 5

Events

Calendar, Birthdays	Page 6
Arch Street's Fall Retreat	Page 7
UMW Human Trafficking Event	Page 7
Native American Sunday	Page 7



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