



The Rock

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far has the Lord helped us.'"

1 Samuel 7:12

What's in A Name?

In 1882 Ima Hogg was born into a wealthy Texas family. Named after the heroine of an epic Civil War poem written by her uncle, Ima enjoyed a privileged life but shared her blessings with others. Her philanthropy in the areas of education, mental health, history, the arts, and music left an enduring legacy that enriched the lives of many people.

While Ima Hogg had an ugly name, that did not stop her from living a beautiful life. The good name referred to in Proverbs 22:1 is an honorable reputation based on admirable character, which is more valuable than great wealth. Ima's true wealth was not her money but her reputation as a lady of graciousness, compassion, and generosity.

"A good name is to be more desired than great wealth."

Proverbs 22:1

Christians can be called by many unflattering names. But our concern should be with what kind of reputation we are building by our actions and lifestyle. How people perceive us is how they will perceive Christ. Our actions will either contribute or detract from God's work. While we may not have the resources to be great philanthropists like Ima Hogg, we do have a spiritual wealth to share with others, regardless of what the world calls us.

A Moment with Pastor Susan

We have had our share of troubling weather patterns in the last few months. We have endured everything from a rainy spring that made it difficult for farmers to get into their fields to plant, extreme heat with decreased rainfall causing some plants to die, for some our first earthquake, and of course Hurricane Irene that caused loss of life, damage to property, and for some churches, the loss of electricity which caused us not be able to hold services.

I am sure that many of you have heard individuals claiming that this is God punishing us for the sins of the world; however, I will share with you that although I know that in the Old Testament that God did bring natural disasters down on his people who were not living in line with His will, and I would never claim to know the mind of God, I believe that God is a God of compassion, who loved us enough to send His Son Jesus Christ, and that what is happening in our world today is because we have not been good stewards with our environment. But most importantly, I also believe that if our hearts are right with Jesus Christ, then we have nothing to fear.

As we prepare to enter into the season of fall, let us make a concerted effort to not only be good stewards with our environment, but with our relationships as well, our relationship with Jesus Christ, and our relationships with those with whom we come in contact.

Blessings to you and yours ,

Pastor Susan

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Pastor
- ♦ Karen Slusser
Lay Leader
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- ♦ Kent Slusser
Treasurer
- ♦ Carol Wall
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- ♦ Janet Naugle
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July 15, 2011

My Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

It is with deep appreciation for your faithfulness that I write to thank you for paying 100 percent of your Shares of Ministry for 2010. You join hundreds of other congregations of the Susquehanna Conference in providing resources for ministries near and far, made possible by your generosity.

The extraordinary reality of The United Methodist Church, through what we refer to as our "connectionalism," is that we can do far more together than any one congregation could accomplish alone. Combining the resources of people and funding makes this possible. Because of the steadfast commitment you make through your financial support, we are able to reach out in profound ways.

The mission of The United Methodist Church, "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," can become a reality because of millions of followers of Christ like you, who continue to support the church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness.

Thanks be to God for you.

In Christ's service,

Jane Allen Middleton

Upcoming Special Offerings

- ✝ October 2, **World Communion Sunday** - Impacting a life, church, community and nation at one time is no easy task. However, the World Communion Sunday offering does just that by nurturing students to lead, today and in the future. World Communion Sunday gives Christians a time to share in the sacrament and then to serve God through scholarships for U.S. (racial- and ethnic-minority) and international students.. These scholarships enable people from around the world to serve and lead in their home churches and communities by making higher education a reality. Fifty percent of the offering goes to World Communion Scholarships of the General Board of Global Ministries. This program provides scholarships for students of mission partner institutions in advanced studies (master's or doctoral) preparing them for leadership in church and society. Priority areas of mission include elimination of poverty, expansion of global health, leadership and congregational development. We can make a difference for the future by preparing and nurturing the students of today. World Communion Sunday is integral to making a difference.
- ✝ November 20, **World Hunger/Harvest Home Sunday** - Hunger is a global problem, but it is also a national and local problem. At the local level, each of us can help. Every cent you give goes to alleviate hunger across our annual conference.
- ✝ November 27, **United Methodist Student Day** - Every year, we hear: "Tuition costs are increasing." For many United Methodist students, the continuous increase places an enormous financial burden that many cannot assume. However, through the United Methodist Student Day offering, we can prepare students to unite faith with knowledge. Each year, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry awards scholarships and loans to students attending United Methodist and other accredited colleges and universities through the United Methodist Student Day offering. In addition, a portion of the United Methodist Student Day offering is returned to annual conferences for merit scholarship awards to students of their choosing. For many students, this financial assistance is critical to attaining higher education. Each year the number of applicants continues to rise – furthering the need for more financial assistance. Imagine being able to provide assistance for everyone. That is the goal of United Methodist Student Day. Invest in the future of our church through the United Methodist Student Day offering. We can help students unite faith with knowledge.

Offerings* & Ministry Expenses

June

Offerings: \$4,477.00

Expenses: \$4,712.98

July

Offerings: \$6,752.00

Expenses: \$5,309.82

August

Offerings: \$3,821.00

Expenses: \$4,546.38

* Does not reflect special offerings for Building Fund or Memorial Fund

Missions Update

Neighborhood Center

Ronda Peters from Neighborhood Center in Harrisburg was our speaker on July 31. Neighborhood Center has served a multi-ethnic uptown neighborhood, as well as the total Harrisburg community, since 1910 with educational, cultural, social service, basic needs, leadership, and recreational programs for children and their families.

The Center specializes in helping young people discover and develop their capabilities, so that their lives and the life of the community can be enhanced.

The offering received was **\$1,984**. More information about this mission may be found at NeighborhoodCenterHbg.com.

**Next Mission Sunday
October 30**

Operation Christmas Child

We will once again be taking part in this special ministry. Shoe Boxes will be collected **Sunday, November 13**. More information will be available soon.



Brighter Christmas 2011

Brighter Christmas Fund

We will be collecting envelopes on **Sunday, November 27**. Envelopes are still available in the church vestibule.

Calendar of Events

All events at Ebenezer unless otherwise noted.

September

- Sunday, **September 4** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Sunday, **September 11** - Food Bank Sunday
- Sunday, **September 25** - Fellowship After Worship
- Sunday, **September 25 @ 10:00 AM** - Orangeville Nursing & Rehab Center

October

- Sunday, **October 2** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Sunday, **October 2** - World Communion Sunday Offering
- Tuesday, **October 4 @ 7:00 PM** - Trustees Meeting
- Sunday, **October 9** - Food Bank Sunday
- Sunday, **October 30** - Mission Sunday
- Sunday, **October 30** - Fellowship After Worship

November

- Sunday, **November 6** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Monday, **November 7 @ 7:00 PM** - Administrative Board
- Sunday, **November 13** - Food Bank Sunday
- Sunday, **November 20** - World Hunger/Harvest Home Offering
- Sunday, **November 20** - F.R.A.N. Sunday
- Sunday, **November 27** - Building Fund Sunday
- Sunday, **November 27** - United Methodist Student Day Offering
- Sunday, **November 27** - Fellowship After Worship

**Do you have items for the
Winter Issue of "The Rock"
DEADLINE: November 20, 2011**

**Ebenezer United
Methodist Church**

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

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www.EbenezerUMCofBerwick.org

Birthdays

9/2 Ed Knorr
9/10 Sharon Fester
9/11 Austin Slusser
9/13 Dianne Mordan
9/16 Gena Slusser
9/18 Kelly Knorr
9/18 Erma Jeanne Young
9/21 Jolene Shaffer
9/21 Donna Livziey
9/30 Karen Slusser
10/3 Kent Shelhamer, Jr.
10/3 Mike Oman
10/7 Eli Slusser
10/14 Leon Eckroth
11/2 Linda Wintersteen
11/9 Leroy Wintersteen
11/13 Nicholas Fester

11/26 Trent O'Neil
11/27 Carol Wall
11/28 Paula Samelski
11/30 Kent Shelhamer, Sr.

Anniversaries

Kurt & Wendy Slusser 9/22/2001
Kent & Karen Slusser 10/5/1991
Gene & Sylvia Powlus 10/11/1952

Prayer List

Bill Arner
Mary Lou Arner
Marie Eckroth
Rev. Charles Hess
William Slusser
Pastor and Leaders of Columbia
Circuit
Those affected by Hurricane Irene

***Is your birthday/anniversary
incorrect or missing?***

Let Us Know!