

Olmsted

come away



Summer 2009

Mission: Olmsted Manor is an adult retreat center providing renewal within a sacred space and an atmosphere of Christian hospitality.

Impressions Jody Z. Larson, Executive Director

The village of Ludlow, founded in 1871, was a rather progressive community for its time. George Olmsted arrived in the village around 1900 and soon became involved with the Curtis Leather Company. While he was employed there he became fascinated with the growing demand and potential for generating electricity. It was during that time that George was instrumental in the installation of electric power to each home in this village. This made it possible for Ludlow to have electricity before some of the neighboring communities. (It seems ironic now that in 2009, we have yet to have the benefit of a cell phone tower.)

I wonder if George and Iva Olmsted ever would have dreamed that their home and property in the village of Ludlow would have become a retreat center. Such an unusual place to build such a beautiful house. For George his home must have been like a retreat when he would return from a long week in New York on business. In recent years I find myself thinking about them more and more. Speculating on what they thought would have become of the beautiful place they so lovingly created after they were gone. Would they be pleased with the care, changes, additions and purpose of Olmsted Manor? Did they perhaps have other ideas for the place that they called home? We do not know.

Often I wish George and Iva could see the faces and hear the voices of the guests when they arrive. It is interesting to watch when people come for the first time, perhaps somewhat apprehensive at first, but soon feeling

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40 Years! as Olmsted Manor Retreat Center

How are we celebrating 40 years? Like any 40th birthday, this is a year for looking back and seeing how far we have come...and then looking forward to envision our future path. Here are a few things we are anticipating;

- we are looking forward to a new logo--stay tuned
- we are looking forward to a new format for this newsletter, adapted for e-mailing
- we are looking forward to an increased role in continuing education and formation for

Western Pennsylvania United Methodist clergy.

The anniversary of our 40 year will be marked on November 9, 2009



“Near to the Heart of God”

Church Music & Worship Arts Workshop

June 21-25, 2009

This retreat begins with Dinner at 5:30 on Sunday, June 21, and continues through Lunch on Thursday, June 25, 2009.

The Church Music & Worship Arts Workshop, June 21-25, offers participants a variety of sessions designed to enhance worship and to make the most of the gifts in our different church settings. In our church communities it is the worship hour that brings us closer as together we draw Near to the Heart of God.

The session leaders for the 2009 Worship Arts Workshop are:

Paul Staley: Organ	Brian Bogey: Adult Choral
Sue Garton: Bells	Luella Krieger: Women of the Bible
Barry Lewis: Chaplain, Bible Study	

• Cost for this workshop is \$302.00 per person which includes Room & Board: \$232 + Tuition: \$70. If you would like a private room please add an additional \$40, (\$10/per night).

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Retreat for Older Adults

with Bill and Lois Hiles July 27-31, 2009

Head to the mountains this summer for the annual gathering of the Senior Citizens Retreat at Olmsted Manor.

This year we will be following “The Walton Family” Bible Study. Join in as we remember the stories from up on Walton’s mountain with John Boy and the whole Walton family.

This annual event at Olmsted Manor is a great time for Christian fellowship for all of the participants as they worship, study, relax, and enjoy some wonderful Olmsted Hospitality! Retreat participants can expect to find comfortable surroundings and great fellowship with friends new and old.

Bill and Lois Hiles of Port Orange, Florida, will be leading both retreats. Bill is a retired pastor from the WPA Conference, UMC.

Dana Hiles will lead the Bible Study with Velva Hildebrand leading music. Dana Hiles is currently the Student Local Pastor for the Eldersville UMC. Velva Hildebrand, from Ellwood City, returns for her 16th year leading the music.

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right at home. Others, who have been here before take a deep breath and sigh saying; "It is good to be back." Thousands of people through the years come and go from this place all with a story to tell about their experience while on retreat at Olmsted.

40 years is a good long time. In 1969 no one knew if a family's estate could feasibly become a retreat center. If it would survive or fail, who would use it, how would it be taken care of, could it be a sustainable ministry? Serious questions were wrestled with by a group of remarkable people who believed it was all possible.

Now that we have been in this business for 40 years the Board of Directors has been doing some thinking about what we have become and what we want to reach for in the future. We have been thinking about our logo, the stag head. Does it still readily represent an image of who we are and what we do? Is there some other way to depict and capture the essence of Olmsted? We are still working on that one... Recently though, we have agreed upon the phrase "Come Away" as an inviting lure (or a way to say,) to come and experience what this retreat center has to offer. "Jesus said to his disciples, "Come away to a deserted place and rest a while." Mark 6:31. And that is what I invite you to do, come away, and experience what Olmsted has to offer...a place to rest and relax, a place to study and reflect, to be still and listen. The strength of our ministry is in many ways our location. So I guess George and Iva knew what they were doing after all.

Blessings,



Jody Z. Larson



"I Am No Prophet"

What is a Prophet, & Should I Be One?

Old Testament Theology

with Rev. Dr. Steven Tuell -- August 3-6

Biblical prophecy is a major point of discussion and division in our churches. As the popular "Left Behind" series demonstrates, many people are convinced that prophecy means prediction, and that the prophets provide a future calendar. Others argue that the prophets need to be read as political activists, and understand prophecy to involve protest and calls for social justice. By considering the classical Old Testament prophets in the light of their precursors in Israel and the ancient Near East, and by attempting to place prophecy in its proper social, historical and canonical context, this course will present the student with a deeper perspective on this fascinating literature. The prophets of the Babylonian exile, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Second Isaiah, will be considered in particular depth. Special attention will be given to the theology of the prophetic books, and to the genres of prophetic oracles and the methods that may be employed for their interpretation. But the organizing question throughout will be, "What is a prophet, and should I (indeed, can I) be one?"

The Rev. Dr. Steven Tuell currently teaches at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Before coming to Pittsburgh, he taught at Erskine College, S.C. and Randolph-Macon College, Va. An ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, Tuell has served churches in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Virginia. However, the teaching and study of Scripture is his calling and passion.

Tuell's particular research interest is the biblical literature of the early Persian period. He has written and co-edited books, commentaries and numerous scholarly articles and book reviews. He has been a frequent contributor to Feasting on the Word (a commentary on the lectionary for pastors), the United Methodist Publishing House Adult Bible Studies curriculum, and Bible Reader series. He is now writing a commentary on Nahum through Malachi.



Mary Moments in a Martha World

The 2009 Church Secretaries Workshop, July 19 - 21

With Rev. Sarah Roncolato

"Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only a few things are necessary, really only one..."

Church secretaries play a key role in the ministry of a local congregation and like Martha in the story found in Luke 10, secretaries are "worried and distracted by many things". This workshop will provide an opportunity to reflect on our lives, both personal and professional. Participants will be encouraged to look not only at the "distractions" but more importantly on the ways that we can create space for "Mary moments" in our everyday lives, moments in which we know ourselves to be in the presence of Jesus.

Our time together will begin after dinner Sunday evening. The sessions will continue Monday morning and evening, and will close with worship Tuesday morning. Monday afternoon will be free to explore your own 'Mary Moments' with a hike, a nap, a good book, a visit to Tall Oaks, or friendly conversations with your sister secretaries.

Rev. Sarah Roncolato is a United Methodist minister, a teacher, and a passionate believer in the importance of finding time and space to renew the spirit.

Sarah serves the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church as a local pastor and has taught part time in the religious studies department at Allegheny College in Meadville. In her free time she enjoys walking, biking, reading, and spending time with her family.

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Mark Your Calendars:

Olmsted 2009 Programs at a Glance

May 17-19: Wesleyan
Spiritual Disciplines with
Rev. David Morse

June 21-25: Worship Arts
Workshop

July 19-21: Church
Secretaries Retreat with
Rev. Sarah Roncolato

July 27-31: Senior Citizens
Retreat with Bill & Lois Hiles

August 3-6: O.T. Theology
with Rev. Dr. Steven Tuell

September 6-8: People
with Disabilities Retreat

September 13-15: Fall
Women's Spirituality Retreat

October 20-23: The Wesley
Event with Dr. Richard
Heitzenrater

November 9, 2009:
*40 Year Anniversary of
Olmsted Manor
Retreat Center!*

December 6 & 13: Christmas
Open House



Wesleyan Sayings for the 21st Century

*The 2009 Wesley Event
with Dr. Richard Heitzenrater
October 20 - 23, 2009*



"Let your words be the genuine picture of your heart." John Wesley

Is Wesley still relevant? How are Wesley and his life and teaching important to Methodist Church today and in the century ahead? This set of sessions will examine some of the basic themes in the Methodist heritage. Beginning with Tradition itself, participants will look at the ways that we use, abuse, or ignore it. This workshop will emphasize specific Wesleyan themes, from grace to good works, that have potential for enlivening Methodism and transforming the world in the coming century. To bring focus to these ideas, specific Wesleyan quotations will be used to generate much livelier applications for spiritual life and social action than are usually assumed. The result will be a dynamic combination of knowledge and vital piety, familiar sayings and new spirit, communal integrity and personal challenge, assumed myths and real Methodism.

Dr. Richard Heitzenrater is known for "breaking the code" of Wesley's personal diaries, and is the premier scholar on the life and work of John Wesley. Currently Dr. Heitzenrater teaches at Duke University as the William Kellon Quick Professor of Church History and Wesley Studies. He has lectured at many distinguished institutions across North America as well as Great Britain, Sweden, Russia, Austria, Bulgaria, Australia, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Brazil. Heitzenrater is General Editor of the Bicentennial Edition of the Works of John Wesley, which includes his work in the seven volumes of Journals and Diaries. He has published 16 books, including *The Elusive Mr. Wesley*, *The Poor and the People Called Methodists*, and *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, now translated into six languages. He has contributed 25 chapters to other books and published more than 20 major scholarly articles. When not teaching or writing in the academic arena he may be found in another creative venue, crafting with wood.

Olmsted Board Changes

The Board of Directors of Olmsted Manor are saying goodbye to three people who have completed terms of service. These include Rev. Pam Gardner, Rev. George Porter, and Rev. Thomas Chacko. Rev. Gardner and Rev. Chacko served on the program committee (Rev. Gardner also chaired that committee) and Rev. Porter served on the personnel committee. We appreciate the years of service these individuals have given to the work of Olmsted.

We will be pleased to have some new faces joining us for the first time at the July board meeting.

Continuing Education & Formation at Olmsted

Continuing formation is an essential and ongoing process for faithful, effective and fruitful ministry. In response to the 2008 Believe Again Clergy Study Team Report Olmsted has joined a committee to facilitate the continuing education process. The Clergy Continuing Education and Formation (CCEF) committee has worked to provide access to information concerning events and programs which will be beneficial to the clergy of Western Pennsylvania. Through Olmsted's website, pages have been added to connect clergy with continuing education requirements, education opportunities, event information, forms, and other resources.

Many have already found Olmsted to be the perfect place for those seeking to enrich their spiritual education and formation. With the benefits of retreating from outside concerns and distractions, our guests love to 'come away' to a place that feeds their soul as they renew and refresh their spiritual lives.

The CCEF pages may be found as a link from Olmsted's homepage (www.olmstedmanor.org) or by typing in: www.olmstedmanor.org/CCEF/CCEF-home.htm.

You may register for an Olmsted Event through the Olmsted website (www.olmstedmanor.org) or by mailing the following along with your \$25.00 deposit:

Title of the Event: _____ Event Dates: _____

Name: _____ Email address: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Physical/Dietary needs? _____

Requested Roommate: _____ Private Room? (additional \$10/night) yes/no

Send with \$25 deposit to: Olmsted Manor; PO Box 8; Ludlow, PA 16333 [Recd: _____ Ch#: _____ Amt: _____]

For reservations & information:

Telephone: 814-945-6512

Fax: 814-945-6390

E-mail: info@olmstedmanor.org

Write: Olmsted Manor, PO Box 8,
Ludlow, PA 16333

www.olmstedmanor.org

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Thomas Burkett, President,
Board of Directors.
Jody Z. Larson, Executive
Director.
Merry Ryding, Staff Editor.

If you no longer wish to receive information from Olmsted Manor, please send us your mailing label and we will remove your name from our list.

Olmsted Manor
PO Box 8
Ludlow, PA 16333

