Let There Be Light!
—by Pastor Keith

Out of this gloomy universe God spoke; “Let there be light.” And there was light. And the light was good. The light was a gift to this universe, given swiftly and silently. The light that God has given us is free to everyone. Remember, out of the formless, empty darkness, God spoke, “Let there be light.” This was a divine direct order from the Maker Himself, the Creator’s word of command. And just like that, there was light. It was radiant, brilliant, and beautiful.

“Light,” is a key word throughout the Bible! From Genesis 1:3 to Revelation 22:5, the word “Light” shines bright about 270 times. It is the nature of who God is. “God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5). He is also called “the father of lights” (James 1:17), and in I Timothy 6:16, “He dwells in unapproachable light.” If you trace the history of light in the Old Testament, you will always find God. Light always overcomes darkness. When the Egyptians were in the desert in darkness, God was their night-light, “For He went before them in a ‘pillar of fire.’” The Tabernacle, when in the wilderness, was illuminated by the light from the ‘golden lampstand.’ It was Aaron and his sons’ job to keep the lamps burning before the Lord from evening to morning.

If you remember the story when Moses came down off the mountain, his face was “radiant” because he had spoken with God. Psalm tells us that “The Word of God is likened unto a lamp for our feet and a light of our path” (Ps. 119:105).

Even the great prophets promised that the Messiah would shine like a great light upon Israel (Isaiah 9:2).

Then we come to Bethlehem where the star brought joy to the Magi because it led them to Jesus, “the light of the world.” And “in Him was life, and that life was the light of men” (John 1:4). Those who accept Christ into their life have light, and those who reject Christ are in spiritual darkness. When Saul was traveling the Damascus Road, he was temporarily blinded by the light – a brilliant, blazing light that was brighter than the noon sun. He immediately cried out, “Who are you Lord?” (Acts 9:5).

When men are confronted by the “Living Christ,” they are facing the very ‘Light’ that Paul faced. It is so important that we understand that there is “Light” and there is “Darkness.” Hell is described in Scripture as a place of ‘outer darkness’ (Matt. 25:30). In Jude, he speaks of “the blackness of darkness forever” (Jude 13). Why? It is because God won’t be there. Hell is a bottomless, restless, godless place for those who have chosen to live without God. Then we have the other side of the coin that heaven will be a place of glorious light. We have the sun and the moon to give us light now, but there will be no need for them because the glory of God will give off light, and the

Continued on Page 2
Faith is vital in establishing and maintaining meaningful relationships—faith in others and faith in oneself.

Many do not have faith in themselves. They believe they will fail. Their focus is on the challenges when faced with new situations. The truth is that the challenges rarely are the cause of failure. Lack of faith dims the hope; and, without hope, the focus remains solely on the difficulties—which results in failure. God supplied each with a measure of faith. It is up to us to sow that seed and allow it to grow within us. Then and only then can we encourage others in their quest for life.

While many do not have faith in themselves, many are without someone who has faith in them. We live in a densely populated world. People live in close proximity to one another; communication allows us to talk and see to all parts of the world; we can travel throughout the world in hours yet people feel isolated. There are some in our own congregation who feel alone—left out—unimportant. And many people don’t have families that are supportive. Evangelist Bill Glass once said, “Over 90 percent of prison inmates were told by parents while growing up, ‘They’re going to put you in jail.’” We need to teach children and others to believe in themselves rather than tear ourselves and others down.

Most people can identify someone who has faith in them. They know if someone is phony or genuine in their beliefs. Having real faith in someone can change his or her life. Having and expressing faith in a person is to assist that person to think more highly about himself/herself—not to make them think more highly of you.

Lastly, most people will try so desperately to live up to the faith others have in them. They will work extra hard to do their best. Most want to achieve; most want to please others. That process results in rewards for all. John Spalding said this: “Those who believe in our ability do more than stimulate us. They create for us an atmosphere in which it becomes easier to succeed.”

God has faith in us. His focus is on the potential He gave us rather than our misdeeds. Let’s focus on positive attributes and encourage one another in our journey of life.

_Taken from John Maxwell’s, Relationships 101_

—Carl Madtes

_Let There Be Light!—by Pastor Keith_  
(Continued from Page 1)

Lamb of God will be its lamp (Rev. 21:23). Imagine, no night, no darkness (Rev. 21:25; 22:5).

I believe we still need to hear and heed the pronouncement: “Let there be light!” Let there be light in our hearts—light that emanates from the indwelling Christ, the light of men. “Let every heart prepare Him room.”

—Pastor Keith
As many of you know, I just arrived home from Ghana and England. Before this, I returned from L.A. Last year Mary Lou Young went with me to Ghana, and this year she went with me to L.A. Included is a picture of Mary at the church where we had our housing.

Unfortunately for me, I had to return home Monday night to take my wife for her knee operation, so I only heard second-hand of the ministry work accomplished by the group of 25 from three different churches. Mary said she felt like the grandmother to the young people who went. She is raring to go in February when the next group will go. She really felt needed as the group helped many families with their housing needs.

One of the reasons we have monthly Bible studies in preparation for going on our trips is to prepare ourselves, spiritually, for the work God calls us to do. It is not about my agenda or my schedules but about those people He is sending us to serve. There was a death of one of the staff who helped with the VIM response team. She happened to be the pastor’s wife from Abbeyville UMC who had been sick. Needless to say, the VIM team was devastated by her death. Things shut down but some of the team who did not attend the Bible studies were upset at their inactivity. There should have been a refocus on helping the VIM team and churches deal with their loss rather than wondering when the building team could resume.

When I went to Ghana, the first sermon I preached both at the church and at the seminar had me washing the feet of those whom we came to serve. I did not come expecting to be raised up or to have my agenda met—rather I came to serve them. Yes, I always come with a plan of ministry and with expectations but all plans are subject to the Spirit and what God wants done. By the way, God does have a plan and He will do great things through us if we only let Him. Our new church called the Royal Gate Mission Church is growing and will be working on their first building. What a neat idea of our building and their building at the same time. Since the first time I went there when they had a handful of members, now they have several hundred at two different locations.

Our presence and support as Americans gives them credibility. Many churches spring up but few make it. You are building a new denomination. What a privilege!

The family we stayed with took care of us with so much love and serving—none of us has ever experienced this in America. We can learn a lesson from them. Life is so different from what we live. In many ways, we all wished we could duplicate their understanding of life. Yes, each culture has its strengths and weaknesses.

I stopped at the headquarters for the CAC—the one who we stayed with our first trips to Africa. I left a Bible for the new Chairman and he later called me to
In 1924, I was born in Emerald to Tom and Alma Roberts. I always thought I had the greatest parents even though my mother was so very strict. She always taught me what was right and what was wrong. Her whole life revolved around the church (St. Peter’s). When the church door opened, my mother was there. She attended all the services.

When we had company, mother would serve a meal; and then later, after we ate, she would invite our guests to go along to church. I was often embarrassed when she would say she was going to church when we had company. But she knew where her priorities were, and we soon learned.

I am the person I am today mostly because of what the Lord has done in my life plus my mother’s Godly influence. My dad was saved later as a result of my mother’s influence.

As for me, at the age of 13, I gave my heart to the Lord at a revival service. Back then, our revival services often extended from one week to another. One night, I felt convicted of sin and went to the altar when the call was given. I confessed and repented of my sins, I remember feeling so light, almost as if I was floating. God surely freed me from my burden of sin. I left the altar a new creature! Since that time, I have, at times, failed the Lord. But when I asked God’s forgiveness, He was “faithful and just to forgive my sins and cleanse me from all unrighteousness” as it says in I John 1:9.

Due to my heritage and personal experience with the Lord, I always been involved in the church, too, it seems. Over the years, I’ve taught Sunday School, been a youth leader and an officer in the Women’s Missionary Society, and sang on the choir.

When I no longer served in these capacities, I was asked if I would send cards to encourage people. I really enjoy it. From time to time, people let me know that the card ministered to their spirit. It blesses me to know that I can be used of the Lord in this way. I get many phone calls from people who are lonely and/or have other needs, and I am able to have a word of prayer with them on the phone. I am thankful to God to have the privilege of encouraging others.

Life has given me many challenges which the Lord has helped me through. I was married to Harold Serfass in 1943, in our church here in Emerald. He was in the Air Force at the time. Three days after our wedding, he went back to New Brunswick, NJ, where he was stationed. Before long, I received the message (as did many other women) “Shipped out to sea. Destination unknown.” I cried and cried. Barbara was born while he was overseas. Thank God that Harold survived the Battle of the Bulge and other maneuvers during his stations in World War II. When he was discharged from the service and returned home two years later, he saw his daughter, Barbara, for the first time. For awhile they were strangers, and that deeply hurt him. But, in time, the father-daughter relationship was established.

Another very difficult time in my life was when my five-year old son, Ricky, was killed in a sleigh-riding accident. In fact, it was the most difficult trial I ever faced. All I can say is that God helped me. “Through it all, I have learned to trust Him,” as the song says.

Ten years ago, Harold, my husband of 54 years, died. I am so thankful to God that Reverend Paul Butterfield led him to the Lord before God called him
Home.

I’ve been baptized, saved, and married in our church here at St. Peter’s. I’ve seen many changes over the years. But God never changes! I really miss the altar rail where I’ve knelt and prayed for my own salvation and, many times through the years, for unsaved loved ones.

I realize that I am blessed to be 83 years old. In Psalm 90:10 it says that 70 years are given to us and some may reach 80. I’ve lived beyond the promised time, and God continues to meet my every need.

I am so thankful for my son, Scott, my daughter Barbara, my son-in-law Calvin, my grandson Michael, and my two great grandchildren.

So many in my family have gone on to meet the Lord: my parents, my beloved sister, Shirley, my husband, and my precious son, Ricky. I’m looking forward to the time when the Lord calls me Home and I’ll see them all again. I can truly say that through the difficult times, the personal grief and tragedy that I have faced, God has been faithful to me.

I agree with Paul who said: “For to me to live is Christ; and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21)

My favorite hymn, “It Is Well With My Soul,” verifies that I am ready, whenever the Lord shall call.

—Editor’s Note: If you’ve been blessed or encouraged by Elaine’s testimony, please let her know.

Scott, Elaine, Barbara and Michael

Psalm 91:2
I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God; in Him will I trust.

Missions Report
—by Gordon Hendrickson
(Continued from Page 3)

ask our help with training their pastors. We will see what God has in store. For now, we will be receiving his Bronx church at the 5 PM service at Bethany on Sept. 22nd—to be followed by a meal. Please plan on attending.

Health fairs are always so big in African churches. Maybe this is why we are doing ours. Stay tuned to Sue Ann and Tom for more details on this Saturday event in October.

In the Spirit,
Gordon

Health Fair at Rails to Trails
October 6, 2007
11 AM to 4 PM
September-October 2007 Calendar of Events

Sept. 2 — 8 AM Prayer in the Sanctuary
  9 AM Sunday School
  10:15 AM Worship Service
  with Communion

Sept. 3 — Labor Day (No Choir Practice)
Sept. 5 — Hoagie Order Deadline
Sept. 7 — 1 PM United Methodist Women Meeting
Sept. 8 — 8 AM Men’s Fellowship Breakfast at The Terrace Restaurant

Sept. 9 — 8 AM Prayer in the Sanctuary
  9 AM Sunday School
  10:15 AM Worship Service

Sept. 10 — 7 PM Ad Board Meeting
Sept. 11 — 6:30 PM Christian Development Committee Meeting

Sept. 12 — Hoagie Pick-up/Delivery
Sept. 15 — 9:30 AM—NOON UMW Brunch in Pen Argyl

Sept. 16 — 8 AM Prayer in the Sanctuary
  9 AM Sunday School
  10:15 AM Worship Service

Sept. 17 — 7 PM Choir Practice
Sept. 19 — 7 PM Family Night
Sept. 23 — 8 AM Prayer in the Sanctuary
  9 AM Sunday School
  10:15 AM Worship Service with The Dannecker Family (presenting their heart for Israel)

Sept. 24 — 7 PM Choir Practice
Sept. 26 — 7 PM Family Night
Sept. 27 — 11:30 AM to 1 PM Senior Citizens’ Luncheon featuring Julie Harhart as Guest Speaker

Sept. 30 — 8 AM Prayer in the Sanctuary
  9 AM Sunday School
  10:15 AM Worship Service

Oct. 1 — 7 PM Choir Practice
Oct. 3 — Hoagie Order Deadline
  7 PM Family Night
Oct. 5 — 1 PM United Methodist Women Meeting
Oct. 6 — 11 AM to 4 PM Health Fair at “Rails to Trails”

Oct. 7 — 8 AM Prayer in the Sanctuary
  9 AM Sunday School
  10:15 AM Worship Service celebrating World Wide Communion

Oct. 8 — 7 PM Ad Board
Oct. 10 — Hoagie Pick-Up/Delivery
  7 PM Family Night
Oct. 13 — 8 AM Men’s Fellowship Breakfast at The Terrace Restaurant in Walnutport

Oct. 14 — 8 AM Prayer in the Sanctuary
  9 AM Sunday School
  10:15 AM Worship Service

Oct. 15 — 7 PM Choir Practice
Oct. 17 — 7 PM Family Night
Oct. 21 — 8 AM Prayer in the Sanctuary
  9 AM Sunday School
  10:15 AM Worship Service (Harvest Home)

Oct. 22 — 7 PM Choir Practice
Oct. 24 — 7 PM Family Night
Oct. 25 — 11:30 AM—1 PM Senior Citizens’ Luncheon: Menu: Pork and sauerkraut, hot dogs, corn, applesauce and desserts

Oct. 28 — 8 AM Prayer in the Sanctuary
  9 AM Sunday School
  10:15 AM Worship Service (Harvest Home)

Oct. 29 — 7 PM Choir Practice
Oct. 31 — 7 PM Family Night

November/December Newsletter Deadline

Any information for the November/December Newsletter should be submitted (preferably via email) to the Church Secretary no later than October 14, 2007
Harvest Home
will be celebrated at St. Peter’s UMC
in the 10:15 AM Worship Services
to be held on Sunday, October 21
and Sunday, October 28, 2007

Everyone is encouraged to donate canned goods, cereal,
fresh fruits, toiletries, etc. for the display.
All non-perishable items will be given to the
Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Happy Birthday/Anniversary*!

Sept.
2 — Joshua Hamm
   April Herring
   Thomas P. Zeiser
4 — M/M Richard Borger*
8 — Henry Peters
9 — Calvin Cassell
10 — M/M David Dailey*
12 — Brenda Dailey
14 — Betty F. Wanamaker
15 — Harold Moyer
16 — Tammy Green
18 — William Kern
19 — Richard Borger
   Matthew Evans
20 — Blaik Killraine
22 — Diane Kern
23 — Robert Reitz
   Margie Edelman
24 — Larry Reitz
25 — Tina Gannett

Sept.
27 — Brad Wanamaker
   Brenda Wanamaker
29 — M/M Chris Newhard*

October
1 — Ava Blaxland
   Mary Evans
2 — Becky Wanamaker
5 — Chris Newhard
   Marion Horner
8 — Adam Cebrosky
9 — Katie Kern
12 — M/M Albert Falat*
14 — David Dailey
   Brandon Kistler
15 — Troy Markell
17 — Mary Lou Young
18 — M/M Albert Schmidt*
21 — M/M Elwood Scherer*
24 — Scott Serfass
   Stella Cebrosky
29 — Elwood Scherer
30 — JoAnn Harder

Encourage these brothers and sisters in the Lord with a card or a phone call.

If your name is not on the birthday/calendar or if the information is incorrect, please give the church secretary the correct name(s), birth date, and/or anniversary date or email the information to her at:
StPetersUMC@Verizon.net

Annual Charge Conference * 10:30 AM * November 17, 2007
The United Methodist Women continue to host a luncheon for Senior Citizens in our church and community once a month. It is a valuable ministry and additional help is needed. Please contact Beatrice Dorward (610-767-5301) if you are interested in getting involved. We would love to have new ladies join our UMW.

The next Senior Citizens’ Luncheon will be held on September 27, 2007. The menu includes ham and string beans, applesauce, cottage cheese, apple butter, and desserts. Julie Harhart will be our guest speaker for this luncheon. We are expecting a good turnout.

Then, at the next Senior Citizens’ Luncheon scheduled for October 25, 2007, we plan to serve pork and sauerkraut, hot dogs, mashed potatoes, corn, applesauce and desserts.

Of special interest is the fact that area United Methodist Women have been invited to attend a brunch at 9:30 AM on Saturday, September 15, 2007, in Pen Argyl. Those interested should contact Beatrice Dorward for more information.

The United Methodist Women will meet at 1 PM on September 7 and October 3, 2007, to plan for these luncheons and other projects. We would love to have new women meet with us and help in our ministries.

—Beatrice Dorward, Vice President
—Diane Kern, Secretary

The next UMW meeting is at 1 PM on September 7, 2007