We bring the word of the United Methodist Church to life.

JAN & FEB 2012

The Crossword

Pastor's Column

"Outdo one another in showing honor... extend hospitality to strangers." Romans 12:10b, 13b

Are you a competitive person?

Recently I read an article written by a psychiatrist in which he said that all human beings are, by nature, competitive. Some are aware of it, some are not; but we all have some issue (or issues) around which we compete with everyone around us. Traditionally, it's sports or games. But really, people can be competitive about just about anything: popularity, wealth, knowledge, power, talent, attention, beauty, success...

This author noted that, basically, this competitiveness is a good thing – it pushes us try harder, to do better. The only problem, he noted, is that we tend to be competitive around things that don't really matter. Much of what we strive after ends up really just being a waste of time. Our efforts could have been better spent in other ways.

In his letter to the Church in Rome, the Apostle Paul

speaks to this issue. He addresses the competitive spirit in us all and he offers his fellow Christians some advice. "Outdo one another is showing honor," he writes. In other words, if you want to be the best at something, to be better than everyone else, try being the person who cares most about other people,

particularly a person who goes out of their way to make others feel sincerely valued and worthwhile and good. Most especially remembering not only the people you already know, but the new people that come your way – "extend hospitality to strangers."

At MUMC, do you know what month of the year we historically have, in worship, the most visitors seeking to find a church home?

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It's January. There are probably a number of very good reasons for this: Either people were somehow moved during the preceding holiday season and now want to form a closer relationship with the Lord; or, as many people do, they looked at the problems in their lives and have made a New Year's resolution to change – in this case, to devote themselves more to issues of faith.

Either way, they show up at our church. The problem is: Where are we?

At MUMC, do you know what month of the year is historically one of the lowest in average worship attendance?

You got it: It's January. Following Christmas, the weekly worship attendance of current members drops off dramatically. And when we do come, it seems like we drag ourselves in here as if we're walking our last mile. I know I've been guilty of this. There are a number of very good reasons for it: We're tired after doing the work of preparing and presenting the holiday programs and get togethers, it's been so hectic we all want a little break; there's the inevitable letdown after all the hype; and the ever present "winter blahs" – just not enough sunshine! It's all very understandable.

The only problem is: Timing. People show up looking for a church just when most of the church isn't there.

Think about it: If you had just moved to a new town, or had just gone through a crisis in your life, and you were seeking to draw closer to God and you went to a church seeking the Lord, which church would most appeal to you: A full, vibrant church filled with happy, welcoming people who make you feel good about yourself? Or a half empty church, with a few exhausted people keeping to themselves as much as possible?

In the vows of membership that all United Methodists take, we pledge to support the ministry of the local church "by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness..." Think about that second one: Our presence. Did you ever stop to think that just by showing up to church on Sunday you could help someone else on to the Lord? Your presence in church each week may mean all the difference whether or not some lost, hurting individual finds Jesus Christ that day – or ever!

This New Year, let's get competitive. Let us make a New Year's Resolution that really matters . Let us resolve to outdo one another in showing honor, particularly to the visitor in our midst. Let us resolve to be present; to be joyful; to be welcoming; to make every person we meet feel good about themselves; and to greet, each Sunday, at least one person we do not currently know.

Company's coming. Let's get ready. Theologically, and practically, Christmas isn't an ending, it's a beginning!

In Christ, Rev. Clark Lynn Callender.

PS: On behalf of my entire family I wish to say a special thank-you to everyone for all the cards and gifts and congregational gift received over the holidays. It is all deeply appreciated, and it is a great honor to be your pastor! Sincerely, Clark, Traci, Samantha, and Rachel Callender.

United Methodist Women

Content provide by http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/



United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women with a p p r o x i m a t e l y 800,000 members whose mission is

fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice.

Members raise up to \$20 million each year for

programs and projects related to women, children and youth in the United States and in more than 100 countries around the world.

The Women's Division is the national policymaking body of this group.

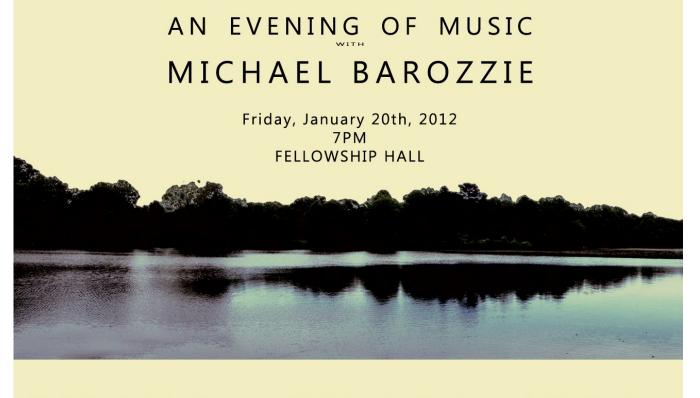
Shaping the Next Ten Years: The Heart of the Women's Division Strategic Plan

Living the Vision

- We provide opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ and put faith into action.
- We are organized for growth, with flexible structures leading to effective witness and action.

- We equip women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agencies, work-places, governments and churches.
- We work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems.
- We provide educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world.

UMW at MUMC meets 2nd Tuesdays of most Months, 1-3pm in Fellowship Hall.. All women are invited to join. Please stop in church office to pick up copy of annual booklet.



Worship Committee is pleased to announce a night of praise and worship music presented by Michael Barozzi. Michael comes to us from The Presbyterian Church of Toms River, NJ. He is a full time employee of their Church for the last 10 years, directing their Choirs and is a writer/composer/performer of original and popular Christian contemporary music.

Michael is noted for many musical performances and his CD "River of Life" is a great hit.

Coffee and homemade desserts will be served.

The cost? A "good will" offering is all we ask, which will be used for our Church's Music Ministries.

Volunteers are needed to help with Worship Services.

We need your help in the running of our weekly worship services. Youth and adults are encouraged to volunteer. We need folks to usher, greet and serve communion.

You can find sign-up sheets on the bulletin board on your right as you come in the front doors of the Church. Simply sign your name and you will be called to confirm dates and instructions.

We thank all of our steady volunteers for all their time and talents. You are so important to our church family.

Communion Servers (once a month)

Yellow sheet

PAGE 4

Communion is generally served on the first Sunday of each month.

Greeters Pink sheet.

An important role in welcoming our guests and members. A wonderful way to meet people. We will be having a training session this January (TBD). Details will be in upcoming weekly bulletin.

Usher

Blue sheet.

Assist our guests with seating, bulletins and familiarization with our facility. We will be having a training session this January (TBD). Details will be in upcoming weekly bulletin.



Why Should I Remember Manahawkin UMC In My "Will"?

Submitted by Dick Neeld Reprint of 2011 Article

In this article, I'd like to discuss remembering the church in your "Will". Frankly, this isn't the most stimulating topic in the world, and, it's a subject that many people would rather avoid. But, please remember that to an atheist no explanation of death is possible, while to us Christians, none is necessary.

But first, let's look at a few key reasons why such giving is vital both to you as well as to our church. As church members our vows ask us to support our church with our prayers, our presence, our services, our gifts, and our witness. Each of these items plays an essential part in our personal church growth. In addition, the Bible reminds us that "The Lord loves a cheerful giver".

I hope I can bring the point home by using examples from our own church history and, thus, make this discussion a lot more interesting.

To show the impact of such giving, let's look at the benefits derived from the gifts left by Marjorie Penn and Ruth Ramella. Both were long time members of this church and knew its needs well. The use of their gifts enabled your church to:

- Hire the Goold's, as our Youth Group Cordinators, to help reach more local youth, etc.
- Hire Kirsten Mosher, as our Outreach Coordinator, to help set up a church website, provide weekly emails, and coordinate various functions. She also helps set up newspaper interviews that provide local coverage.

Both the Goold's and Kirsten Mosher are very talented people. They are a great addition to our church staff.

 Marjorie Penn's and Ruth Ramella's gifts also financed the new church elevator and helped remodel our Church Kitchen as well as finance various other projects.

Each of the above four items has been completed. However, our work is NOT done. In the next phase of our church's growth, we will:

YOUTH NEWSLETTER



Why Sunday School?

Kirsten Mosher

This question can be heard in many households across America on Sunday mornings. My own children often balk at the idea of having to get up, get dressed and get out the door on Sunday morning. Why Sunday School indeed.

Sunday School offers the educational component of church. Children learn the bible basics and stories. However, Sunday School is only one part of a child's spiritual journey. Alone it can be informative and fun, but it's kind of like having a burger without the fries...tasty but not fully satisfying.

So when Sunday School is all you have, it can seem kind of 'boring and a bit like school" (actual quote from student). Now, if you add worship (fries), youth group (milkshake), community outreach (cheese) and music programs (tasty pie) the experience takes on an entirely new dimension and flavor.

Our Sunday School team made a decision two years ago to build a program that not only provided a classroom experience, but one that encouraged fun and fellowship. So far we've been able to grow our program and welcome new families.

Our children are bombarded daily with messages challenging their faith and pulling them from their journey. Whether it be on TV, magazines or on the web our children are experiencing 'in your face' messages against biblical teachings.

Spoiler Alert: As much as I despise references to 'when I was young", I feel called to use one here. When I was young it was easy to turn off the messages from marketers, it was easy to find some alone time and enjoy it. Today our children are plugged in 24/7. There are few places to hide and even fewer places to not feel the pressure of a society wanting you to act and look a certain way.

One of the best features of our Sunday School program is that you are welcomed as you are. We 'like' you because we are building a relationship with you (shameless Facebook slam from a self-admitted FB junky).

Sunday School can be the beginning of a life -long relationship with God. A relationship that will carry our children through good and bad times, one that they can count on. But like any relationship they will need to put some effort into it.

I challenge all of us parents to add some 'more flavor' to our own & our children's faith journey. Add some fries, a milkshake, cheese (if not lactose intolerant) and don't forget the dessert!

So the question really should be 'Why not Sunday School?"

Preschool News & Notes

December was a month filled of Christmas blessings for the Manahawkin Methodist Preschool. We started off the month by ordering our new playground equipment. Become our friend on Facebook for a sneak peek at what's to come! Thank you to all the families and friends who generously participated in the various fundraisers like pennies for the playground, book sales, school portrait purchases and our breakfast with Santa! Our breakfast with Santa was a huge success we had over 100 guests join us in Fellowship Hall for pancakes and pictures with Santa. Proceeds from this event will go towards the cost of installing the new playground. Thank you to those MMP families that were able to join us for this special event. We concluded the month of celebration with the annual Pre K Christmas Pageant. It was wonderful for the other preschoolers to see the story of the birth of Jesus come to life in the Sanctuary. As one of our preschool friends said, "We've been waiting for that baby Jesus all month and now he's here!"

January marks the beginning of the 3rd session of our Half Notes Toddler Music program. Classes have averaged around 10 students with Mom's, Dad's, and Grandparents joining in on the fun. Be sure to read Miss Ellie's music quote of the week on the door into Fellowship Hall. Did you know children exposed to music and rhythm produce more antibodies? Or that when children learn a concept through music they have increased retention of the material? Miss Ellie's music programs offer more than just providing a ¹/₂ hour of fun for our toddlers and preschoolers, these classes are contributing to many areas of development.

If you or anyone you know is looking for a preschool for the 2012-2013 school year be sure to tell them to join us for **Open House on Tuesday, January 17t^h at 7pm in Fel-lowship Hall.** There will be a brief presentation about our program, a tour of the school and a chance to meet the teachers. If you have questions or would like to register for this event, please call the preschool office at 597-0407.

February the preschool will host parent /teacher conferences. This is always a special time at MMP because families get a chance to see the progress their children have made since September. Our MMP teachers work hard throughout the year observing, documenting, and assessing their students' development and they look forward to sharing it with the parents.

Our Christian education program continues in January with the story of Jesus in the temple. Through this story our preschoolers will learn that God has plans for us to grow and just like Jesus we too learn new things as we grow. February our preschoolers will study the story of the prodigal son, our learning themes will focus on learning to be kind and loving like Jesus and that we have a Father in Heaven who loves us even when we make mistakes.

Sights of the Season...





Youth Group >>>

Making Grape Vine Wreaths

Blair and I grow grapes in our yard. Well, I should say they grow in our yard despite us. The soil is good and the sun is strong and of the three original vines we planted, one took. For the past five years, Blair has tended to our sprawling grapevine that grows up and over our deck providing beauty, shade and upon occasion, grapes. We discovered that at the end of each season the vine needs to be pruned way back to three main stalks in order to flourish the following summer.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful" John 15 : 1-2

At the end of this season we cut back all the vines, pulled off the leaves and wrestled them into the back of the truck to bring with us to youth group. It was our intention to work these wryly vines into wreaths. When the kids came in that night the floor of the fellowship hall was a mass of tangled vines. "What are all these sticks doing here?" was the question asked. We explained that they were not sticks at all but grapevines and that it would be the task of each one of us to wind these vines into a circle; a wreath. This was no easy endeavor. The vines needed to be coaxed, worked and shaped into the desired circle. We did not use fasteners but rather wound the vines into themselves, braiding them and bending them into submission. The kids worked hard and with persistence each one crafted a wreath out of the original mess of "sticks". They asked for help, they encouraged each other, and they worked together, even making one giant wreath that currently hangs in the fellowship hall over the mural.

"I am the vine and you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15 5

In the end, the wreaths were decorated with pine cones, eucalyptus, berries and cinnamon sticks. Then each member proudly presented their gift to their families. The grapevines came full circle, each season of its life serving a purpose according to God's design. The youth group is continually growing and learning the benefit of the occasional "pruning" that helps us be all He desires us to be. Beautiful!



- Sell some land on Beach Avenue, and use the proceeds to help build a new church parking lot in the rear of the church.
- Consider holding a fund-raising drive to build a New Wing on the rear of the church in 2012/2013. This move will provide more classrooms, offices, handicapped accessible bathrooms, a small chapel/columbarium, as well as a closer church entrance from the new parking lot.

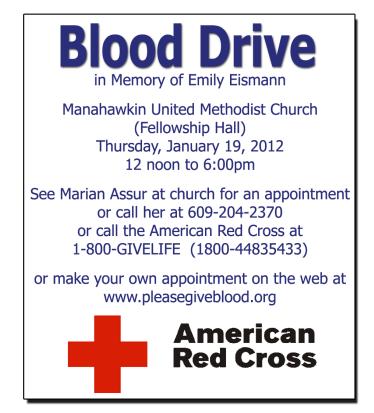
Without the gifts of these two ladies, none of these items could have been undertaken.

It is also important to know that many members helped discuss and plan the various projects. Input from the Future Planning Committee, the Trustees, and the Administrative Council were all equally important. The decisions were made by many church members, and not by some faceless group of bureaucrats. These meetings were well publicized, attended, and open to all church members.

Having some trust funds available to meet ongoing and emergency needs of the church are also highly beneficial (i.e. re-roof the Church and Fellowship Hall; replace the boiler that heats Fellowship Hall), to name a few.

Please remember, you may specify the use of your legacy, if that is your desire. However, unrestricted gifts do give your church more flexibility. Nevertheless, the choice is yours. Needless to say, if every member "Tithed" in their will, the church's future growth would be greatly enhanced. All gifts, regardless of size or form are greatly appreciated. Please remember that the Bible reminds us that "to whom much is given, much is expected". Such future gifts will enable supporting more outreach programs that will, in turn, bring more souls to Jesus Christ. In conclusion, I hope that by using the examples given earlier, I have personalized this issue for you. After prayerful consideration, please consider helping your church by remembering it in your "Will".

I'm sure your lawyer will provide you with guidance to reach your specific goals. Thank you in advance, for your help.



Who can Donate Blood - It is important that you feel good when you donate blood. Healthy people who are at least 17 years old and weigh 110 pounds or more are usually eligible to donate blood. Federal regulations require that donors wait 56 days between regular whole blood donations. Please remember to bring proper identification to the blood drive.

Consider being a Double Red Cell Donor if you are type O or B.

To be eligible you must be:

• Male - at least 130 pounds and 5'1" tall

 Female - at least 150 pounds and 5'5"tall Any one interest in double red cell Call or see Marian Assur for an appointment Also on the day of the drive there will be the need for support help. Registration, canteen, set up, and clean up. If you have a little computer knowledge and want to help schedule appointments please call or see Marian Assur

Remember: The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give Blood.

Missions Committee NOW Forming

Anyone interested in being involved in missions work globally and locally are invited to an organizational meeting on Sunday, January 29th at 10AM in the large classroom.

Committee Chairperson, Traci Callender encourages folks of all ages to come.

MANAHAWKIN UNITED METHODIST

Church Family's Business Directory 2011: As a courtesy to our church family we have compiled a list of businesses and professional services offered by our members.

Charles – Home Improvement From Floor to Ceiling **The Cook Family** 609-294-6218

H & R Block **Michele Sheft**, Senior Tax Advisor 4 & Instructor 110 W. Main Street Tuckerton, NJ 08087 609-296-1439 Email: Michele.sheft@tax.hrblock.com

HAR Home Alliance Realty, LLC **Lisa G. Lopez**, Broker of Record, ePro, RDCPro, GREEN 142 E. Bay Avenue Manahawkin, NJ 08050 609-978-9009 609-384-5109 Website: www.HomeAlianceRealty.com Email: LGLopez@HomeAllianceRealty.com

Laughing Gull Deli & Grill Catering – Bakery - Delivery **Dani and Matthew** 911 Radio Road Little Egg Harbor, NJ 609-812-5647

Lucille's Own Make Candies Nathaniel Eismann 156 E. Routes 72 Manahawkin, NJ 08050 609-597-7300

Manahawkin Methodist Preschool Director: Kelly Steinberg

116 Stafford Avenue/P.O. Box 487 Manahawkin, NJ 08050-0487 609-597-0407 Website: www.ManahawkinPreschool.com Email: preschool@manahawkinmethodist.org

Northeastern Electric LLC Generators, Energy Eff. Lighting & Controls **Ernie Henderson**, 609-276-0775 Mike Gibson, 732-237-4878 Pfizer Inc. **Richard Mueller**, Professional Healthcare Rep 609-709-4099 Email: mueller2@wyeth.com

Rentals Leo Assur, 609-214-2391

RW Solutions, LLC (Spare Fuel) **Rick Jones,** President, CEO 140 Seventh Avenue, Unit #5 Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087 609-314-4949 609-296-4199 Email: efueljones@comcast.net

Sharon Hood Music Studio **Sharon Hood**, Music Lessons Individual, professional lessons: 609-294-0493 609-442-3625

<u>Note</u>: If you would like to be included in this Church Family Directory: please email all your information to Maria at: admin@manahawkinmethodist.org or mail your business card to Maria at: Manahawkin United Methodist Church P.O. Box 487 Manahawkin, NJ 08050-0487

FREE Income Taxes Prepared for Area Seniors

Taxaide sites for Southern Ocean County NJ February 7th through April 12, 2012

Tuesdays

9AM-1PM

Appointment Only call 609-978-6221 Ocean County Community Svcs. 179 S. Main St. #9, Manahawkin

1PM-5PM	Appointment Only call 609-693-8566
	Lacey Library
	10 E. Lacey Rd., Forked River

Wednesdays

9AM-1PM	Walk In Little Egg Hbr Community Center 319 Calabreeze Way, LEH Mystic Islands
1PM-5PM	Appointment Only call 609-994-3671 Perry's Lake Club House 4 Princeton Ave., Manahawkin
Thursdays	
9AM-1PM	Walk In St. Mary's Church Reinbold Hall (Enter at rear of building) 747 W. Bay Ave, Barnegat
11AM-3PM	Appointment Only call 609-494-8861 St. Francis Center 4700 Long Beach Blvd, Brant Beach

An appointment is needed where indicated

What to bring with you:

- Copy of you 2010 Federal and NJ Tax Return
- Your Social Security Card
- All W-2 Wage and Tax Statements
- All 1099-R Pension and Annunity Statements
- All 1099's for Interest, Dividends, Stocks etc.
- All Social Security statements Form SSA-1099
- All Medical Expenses including Mileage
- All Tax related statements (Property Tax etc)
- Bank Account information for Direct Deposit of refund or Direct Debit of Payment
- PTR Booklet and Primary Residence Real Estate Bill

Homebound clients or for more information call 609-294-0730

Message from our Lay Leader

Submitted by Jody Endebrock

Welcome to 2012! A brand new year - a new page - new steps within this new year.

Some of us are packing getting ready to leave for our Winter homes or vacations in warmer terrain some are looking forward to the beginning of a new school semester -new classes - new friends - graduations. We look with anticipation wondering what this new year will bring. Some will see great joy. Some will see great sorrow. Most of us will experience a bit of both. But - all of us - are grounded in the love of God. The love that never changes - the love that is the constant in our lives. I'm reminded of the verse from Jeremiah (29:11) "For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." And, I find myself humming the hymn *He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought* "He leadeth me: O Blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught! What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me."

So here we go, Church Family, strengthened by God's promise, let's start the count down together: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1...Happy New Year!

Church Treasurer Fundraising



Church Treasurer, Shelly Sheft makes an appeal to Santa on behalf of the church's Finance Committee.

Wonder what we'll find under our tree this year?



Youth Choir

All youth are invited to join! We meet the second Sunday of each month in the Sanctuary at 9:50AM.

If you love to sing and are looking to get involved in church activities...this is for you! You don't need to be a church member.

The youth choir is led by our Music Director, Vel Gamble and choir member/ soloist Lee Slater.

Music Notes by Vel

Many thanks to ALL who participated in our Christmas music. Great job!

Now we need to begin work on Lent and Easter.

JUNIOR BELLS:

Junior Bell choir will resume practice on Monday, January 9th at either 4 or 5 PM, depending upon which is more convenient to participants. We have openings for additional ringers, so if you know of anyone who would like to participate please let me know ASAP. Second graders and above are all welcome. We practice for one hour and then share pizza. We ring at both services the second Sunday of the month and will ring on Easter.

New Youth Program

Starting January 7th from 10-11AM for six weeks Miss Ellie, our preschool music teacher will be leading Movement/Cardio class for students kindergarten thru 3rd grade. Each week students will move n' groove to the latest songs and dances...all while burning off the extra winter energy! The session runs for six weeks and the \$30 fee is a donation to our summer VBS program! So come on out dance and help VBS all at the same time!

To sign-up email Kirsten Mosher at outreach@manahawkinmethodist.org

See you there!

The Advance

The Advance is the giving arm of The United Methodist Church. 100% of the monies contributed through The Advance make it to the mission field.

Why not make a commitment to try Alternate Giving this year. The Advance offers perfect opportunities to give beyond the ordinary with alternative gifts – the practice of giving a donation in someone's honor rather than a physical gift. Alternative giving works for all occasions, from Christmas and birthdays to anniversaries and retirements. It is really two gifts in one – a gift through The Advance to the people it helps and a gift to the person you honor. 100 % of your gift reaches its intended mission and ministry.

As we grow into becoming wise givers, we understand the process is not about filling a box with more "stuff." Mission is about **giving**, a gift to be treasured long after the special occasion passes.

Tracking the Accountability of your Gift

A tax-deductible gift may be given through these different avenues (please include Advance number on check):

Local Church Annual Conference

Online Giving: www.givetomission.org

Toll-free hotline to Global Ministries: 1-888-252-6174

Mail to: Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, NY 10087-9068

Global Ministries receives and processes the gifts, which are made available for disbursement and automatically wired to the project director or area financial person in the region once every month. The project receives 100 percent of your gift.

Online or telephone giving expedites the process and still enables your church and conference to receive Advance credit.

THE CROSSWORD

January & February 2012

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Rev. Clark Lynn Callender, MUMC

DIRECTIONS: Take Route 72 East toward Long Beach Island; EXIT Route 9 North; go through the intersection with the traffic light (this is Bay Avenue) turn RIGHT almost immediately AFTER the intersection onto the very first street (Stafford Avenue); The church is two blocks on the left across from the firehouse.

The Prayer Group

"Prayer was never meant to be incidental to the work of God. It is the work...in all work for God, prayer is the working power of all that God would do through his people."

Andrew Murray

Manahawkin United Methodist Church P. O. Box 487 116 Stafford Avenue Manahawkin, NJ 08050-3153 Non-Profit Org. Postal Permit No. 28 Postage Paid Tuckerton, NJ