



THE CROSSWORD

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

MARCH & APRIL 2012

Pastor's Column

"Is this not the fast that I choose: to lose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your home, when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" Isaiah 58:6-7

During the season of Lent (the 40 days preceding the celebration of Easter) Christians have traditionally followed the practice of giving up something and then using this experience of sacrifice as a means to reflect upon, and to be drawn deeper within, Jesus' sacrifice for us.

A few years ago, one group of middle-class believers in a church in Great Britain decided, as their Lenten fast, to live on the minimum wage for the season. Their goal was to identify with those who live on little, to learn

the joy of giving, to invite God to change their attitude toward money, and to challenge others in their church to do the same. As a focus for their devotion they chose Isaiah 58.

Afterward, one of the leaders of the group said they learned an important lesson. Living on less (he said) "makes you realize just how much you really can give away. It makes you look at what you normally give and realize that it is far from being sacrificial."

What they learned mirrors much of what the Bible teaches us fasting and sacrificial living are all about. The Lord said to Israel, "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: . . . Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out?" God was angry with the people because their fasting had

(Continued on page 2)

become an empty ritual with no concern for others. The true goal was not to just give *up* but to give *to*.

During this Lenten season, I would invite you to fast. There are many different ways to do this: Most often it involves giving up some food for the season or on certain days each week; but really it can involve refraining from any behavior or action. But, whatever you choose, don't just make the goal "giving something up". Make the goal to give something more *away* – to truly give to God's work in the lives, and the world, around you. If you give up some food for the season, take the money you would normally spend on that food and donate it to a charity that moves you. Or, how about this challenge: Try a "cell phone" fast: For one day each week you cannot use your cell phone at all. You then use the time you normally spend texting and talking; to, instead, spend time talking to God in prayer – or actually conversing with the people who are physically present with you.

Someone once said: "Your standard of giving is far more important than your standard of living." How often do we get this backwards? Let's straighten things out this Lent!

In Christ,
Rev. Clark Lynn Callender

"Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing." Joel 2:12-13a

The Emily Eismann Scholarship Committee

The committee is currently accepting applications for scholarships. Eligible candidates must be either a church member or constituent, graduating high school or those continuing their education.

To obtain an application please call the church office at 609-597-7666 and leave your name and contact information. You can also download a copy off our website at www.manahawkinmethodist.org.

All applications are due on or before March 23, 2012.

United Methodist Women

What a wonderful experience we shared with Chaplain Barbara Miles of Community Hospital, Toms River, at our meeting on Valentine's Day - most appropriate! Barbara, recently honored as Employee Of The Year, is surely a valuable asset to any community and her presentation on Healing included her experiences in this ministry, as well as her personal journey as a Christian woman, family person, and a mover in the world of faith and works. She is a captivating speaker, and we are so blessed to have been with her.



Our short UMW Meeting which followed after our guests left, included a report on the first of 2 collections, Feb. 12 and 19, during worship services, as co-workers in the mission of The Neighborhood Center in Camden, N.J. We have been asked to sponsor this effort to collect \$2 from each member in support of this, the only National Mission

centered in New Jersey. The congregation has been willingly responsive, as always.

Our efforts as participants in the World Day of Prayer service of Church Women United, held Friday, March 2 at the Terrace Church on L.B.I. were reported on by Eileen Mahan. We have 4 women helping conduct the service and all others, of course, are urged to attend. This year's program, "Let Justice Prevail" is prepared by the women of Malaysia, and as always, represents a most valuable means of creating a Christian Neighborhood of Prayer, care and concern around the world.

We look forward to the District Day Apart led by Bob and Linda Scott at Oakhurst UMC on Saturday, Mar. 10. Several UMW members are going.

At our UMW Meeting on Mar. 13, we welcome Pastor Clark, leading us in our journey through Lent toward the Passion of Good Friday to the triumph and joy of Easter. Again, we invite and any all to join with us Mar. 13th at 1:00 p.m.

Also on the calendar is our annual Sub Sale to benefit Neighborhood Center. You will be hearing more of this as time moves on.

UMW is a vibrant, active group enthused about support for Mission and our mutually beneficial support of each other and our church. Please join us! All are welcome on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 in Fellowship Hall.

In Christ's Love,
Joyce Trainor, Pres.

Music Notes by Vel

The first week of April is going to be a very special time for our music program in Manahawkin United Methodist Church. April 1 is Palm Sunday which we will celebrate with the Junior Bells and Junior Choir joining the Adult choir in leading in Worship.

Friday, April 6th – known as Good Friday or Black Friday – the Adult Choir will lead in worship presenting "The Shadow of the Cross" by Lloyd Larson, with flute, clarinet piano and organ accompaniment.

Easter Sunday – April 8th – will be celebrated with the Holy Spirit Ringers and Adult Choir leading in worship.

It's not too late for you to come and sing with us. In any case, be sure to join us for these very special celebrations.

On March 10th the Junior Bells are going together to the Bell Festival at the First Presbyterian Church in Toms River. We have openings for additional ringers if you have any young people who would like to join the Junior Bell Choir. Rehearsals are Monday afternoons from 5:00 – 6:00 PM followed by pizza. If interested please contact Vel or Eileen Francis.

Missions Committee

When we give from the heart, we receive unexpected blessings—especially the joy of making a difference in someone's life. In The United Methodist Church, we have six annual opportunities to share beyond our regular gifts through churchwide Special Sundays with offerings.

Human Relations Day: January 15

One Great Hour of Sharing: March 18

Native American Ministries Sunday: April 22

Peace with Justice Sunday: June 3

World Communion Sunday: October 7

United Methodist Student Day: November 25

General Conference created six unique Special Sundays to help congregations work with communities, rebuild shattered lives, strengthen self-sufficiency, encourage partnerships, nurture Native American ministries, model peace and justice, provide scholarships and loans for United Methodist students, and much more.

"Be generous," Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 (The Message) advises. "Invest in acts of charity. Charity yields high returns. . . . Be a blessing to others." God has blessed us, and through churchwide Special Sundays we can pass on those blessings to others.

"God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways

so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done." --2 Corinthians 9:7-8, The Message

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Lacey Library
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Wednesdays

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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

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St. Francis Center
4700 Long Beach Blvd, Brant Beach

An appointment is needed where indicated

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- All W-2 Wage and Tax Statements
- All 1099-R Pension and Annuity 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)

Message from our Lay Leader

Jody Endebruck, Lay Leader/Worship Chair

Here we are in the midst of February with March and April waving from not too far a distance. These are the days that often struggle between Winter's cold and the first few hints of Spring. Maybe not so different than our own struggle. We're warmed by the red valentines, the wink of green shamrocks, the vision of multi-colored eggs and chocolate bunnies. It's also the time our hearts and minds turn towards Lent.

I find myself humming Charles Wesley's hymn **And Can It Be That I Should Gain** particularly the words "Amazing Love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?" From the cold I return to the Cross and once again am reminded of God's great love and Jesus' great sacrifice for me - for us - and I turn to the Church to hear the great hymns that so eloquently express the feelings I cannot press into words.

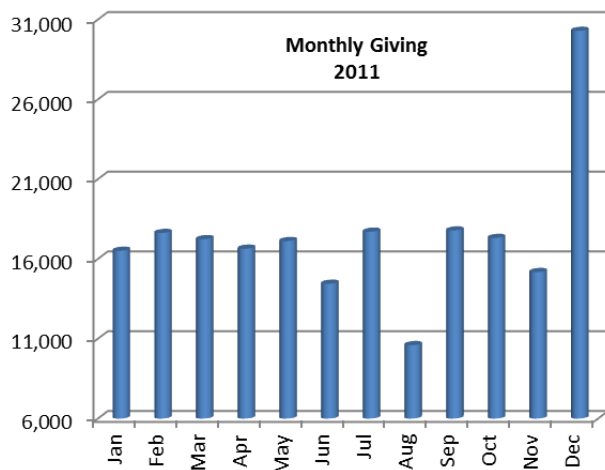
To this end, our Pastor, Rev. Clark and Vel, our Music Director are working hard behind the scenes with many in preparation of our Lenten Season. Of great note will be the very special Good Friday Service, in our Sanctuary, Friday, April 6th @ 7:00P.M. A contemporary Tenebrae Service - a Cantata titled **The Shadow of the Cross** will be presented. On this, the holiest of days, we will share Communion and join the choir in Congregational singing. Concerning *The Shadow of the Cross* Elizabeth C. Clephane wrote: "In its original form, the cross was a tool of execution, or death. But in the eyes of faith, it symbolizes victory and life eternal! In a day when the powers of evil threaten to destroy our optimism for a brighter tomorrow, the cross stands as a reminder that love is stronger than hate, and that hope prevails in times of despair. *The Shadow of the Cross* is a reminder of the magnitude of God's love; a love

so great that it continues through all time and eternity." Well spoken Elizabeth! Well indeed! And I'm back to humming...

"Amazing Love! How can it be? That Thou, my God, didst die for me?"

Finance Committee Quarterly Report

God delights in working through the body of Christ to bring about good works and in December 2011 the Holy Spirit was moving amongst us at Manahawkin United Methodist. In November, if things didn't change, we projected ending the year almost \$30,000 in the red and needing to take another infusion from the fund for capital improvements. Where we can make cuts in the budget is not that big and this would have meant some serious changes. But in December the Holy Spirit moved our hearts to bring glory to Him and the response was so overwhelming that we ended the year slightly in the red but we did not need to dip into the capital fund. As you can see in the graph, the giving in December was almost twice the average for 2011.



For 2012 we are seeing some of our costs going up especially for things like utilities that always seem to go up. Shelly Sheft created and the Admin. Council approved our 2012 budget which looks very much the same as 2011 except for the higher expenses. But the church was able to re-

duce some expenses: Kirsten Mosher, Outreach/Marketing Coordinator reduced expenses for outreach and Rob Schmidt, President of Trustees is looking for volunteers to mow the lawn both saving the church quite a bit. The budget is projecting a \$30,000 shortfall in 2012 but we will trust God to provide for the work we have been given.

May God Bless You,
John Parker – Finance Committee

VBS 2012

The theme has been announced...

'Godzwerkus Circus'.



There are some changes to this year's program. We will offer a three day VBS, starting on Wednesday, July 25 thru Friday July, 27th from 6-8PM each evening.

The program is for children entering kindergarten thru those entering sixth grade.

As always, our program is FREE and open to all children in our community.

More information on the program and how you can be involved will be available shortly.

March/
2012
Issue

The Word

Youth News & Notes at MUMC



Building Spaceships and learning about the science of magnets

Making memories on our new playground!



The Manahawkin Methodist Preschool had a very successful registration and open house. We currently have 75 students registered for September 2012. Thank you to our families who came out to register for next year and for those of you who shared your positive experiences with neighbors, family and friends. Due to your commitment and recommendations, I am thrilled to announce we are practically full for the 2012/2013 school year. I feel truly blessed to be able to work with such an incredible team of teachers and have such wonderful families that recognize the quality of our program and demonstrate such commitment to our school.

Calling all Chefs! The Manahawkin Methodist Preschool launches a new program for our Half day pre k students and preschoolers. Beginning February 27th students can participate in our afterschool Kitchen Club with Miss Ellie in Fellowship Hall. During this six week session Kitchen Club participants will learn how to make things like fruit sushi and homemade play dough. Although the purpose is to have fun, the children will have an opportunity to practice fine motor skills and learn about math and science as they cut

measure, pour and stir using kitchen items.

In March we will celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss with our annual green eggs and ham breakfast. Our preschoolers will scramble some eggs as we read Dr. Seuss's books. The breakfast is scheduled to take place Wednesday March 7th and Thursday March 8th in Fellowship Hall. Also during the month of March Parents and Grandparents are invited to bring in and read their favorite children's book to their child's class. Please speak to your child's individual teacher for details about dates and times. Lastly we have two special events planned in March for our preschoolers, a visit from the Lizard Guys and Scott the Music Man. Both programs plan to be fun and educational and we are looking forward to them both.

During April our preschoolers' Christian Education will focus understanding the meaning of Palm Sunday and the importance of Easter. Books like "The Easter Story" and "The Best thing about Easter" will be read in our classrooms to teach our children about God's amazing plan and how Jesus lives and loves us all.

JUST JEANS

CLOTHING DRIVE



This January we launched 'Just Jeans Clothing Drive.' The response was amazing. Our facility alone collected just under 400 pairs of jeans!

average masses and was making an impact and drawing a lot of notoriety. And in Tim Tebow's case, he was doing it in the name of God. A new Christian superhero was in our midst.

But there was something about this that bothered me. I was put off by this over the top public display of faith. I know for a fact there are many solid Christian men in the NFL who go about their business and don't make a big deal about their faith. They just live it. And in any given football game there are believers on both sides of the ball and God is not intervening to secure victory for one team or the other. The more the hype continued for Tebow and the Denver Broncos, the more it seemed the narrative was that God was pulling for them. Even if God decided to get involved with the outcome of football games, we all know he is a Giants fan anyway. I became increasingly annoyed as the hype continued and the controversy ensued as people were put off by him or staunchly defended him depending on what side they were on.

One night at Youth Group I brought it up to see where the kids stood on the Tebow issue. They seemed to know who he was and said there were kids at school who "Tebowed" in the hallway. I asked what they thought about it and what they felt about him. I was surprised they didn't seem to be caught up in the controversy the same way I was. One kid simply said to me, "He's some guy who has a lot of faith, his dad is a pastor, and he does a lot of charity work." That was it. I kept quiet. There was no reason for me to offer my cynical point of view; it was irrelevant. Like him or not, Tim Tebow is making an impact. And whether celebrities in our culture want to be or not, they are indeed role models. What they say and do matters. Considering all the examples of celebrity behavior our kids can imitate, they could do a lot worse than "Tebowing".

I've decided that it's good there are famous people who can be identified for their obvious faith. A young person should be reassured that there are believers in all areas of society. Role models exist in the home and they also play professional sports. Every once in a while, one comes along that has a huge impact. Just tonight I watched a New York Knicks basketball game for the first time in years because I heard about this new young player named Jeremy Lin. He has turned the team around with his selfless playing style and miraculous game-winning shots. And when he is interviewed he humbly gives credit to his teammates and he thanks God. He is catching a lot of attention, and that is a good thing; the kids are watching.

Who doesn't LOVE a chocolate EASTER bunny?

Help support our VBS program by purchasing delicious Easter candy for your family from our Sunday School students. We will be selling Lucille's Candy for Easter starting Sunday, February 19th—March 11th.

Information on the fundraiser will be on our church website and posted on bulletin boards.

Thank you for your continued support of our programs.

Superheroes, Role Models and Our Youth

by Blair Goold

He was one of the most exciting things in the NFL this season. His come-from-behind victories made him a must watch phenomenon who seemed to operate in the realm of miracles. But Tim Tebow has become most known for the position he assumes on one knee when he prays and offers thanks to God. In interviews he has always taken a moment to thank his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And it wasn't long before others began imitating his kneeling prayer, a move that became known as "Tebowing". Some players from opposing teams did it as a form of taunting. Some Christian kids did it as a tribute to his faith, and others did it just because it was cool to do. It was clear, once again, that a talented player had risen above the



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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.

Manahawkin United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 487
116 Stafford Avenue
Manahawkin, NJ 08050-3153

From

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

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