

Manahawkin

United Methodist Church

The Crossword
Newsletter
Sept & Oct 2012



Pastor's Column

"You load sixteen tons, what do you get? Another day older and deeper in debt. Saint Peter don't call me 'cause I can't go, I owe my soul to the company store." – "Sixteen Tons", Tennessee Ernie Ford

Monday, September 3, 2012: Labor Day. The end of the summer vacation season.

Labor Day is a strange holiday. While we call it "Labor Day," we try to do as little labor as possible and most working people have the day off. Nobody wishes one another a "Happy Labor Day," we didn't get any Labor Day cards, we don't decorate our houses, or give Labor Day gifts. It's the only holiday that florists and greeting card manufacturers have yet to figure out a way to capitalize on. And maybe that should tell us something. Something strange is going on here. Have you ever wondered how this holiday came about? The story is an interesting one –and it goes like this:

Most of the world observes May 1st as Labor Day – a day to honor labor - but not us. The September date was chosen way back when because it was halfway between the 4th of July and Thanksgiving. September 5, 1882 saw the first American labor day parade. It was held in New York City with 20,000 participants carrying banners calling for 8 hours for work, 8 hours for rest, and 8 hours for recreation. It was a day of protest calling for worker's rights, a challenge to the unbridled greed of the wealthy, and

a fundamental alteration of society in response to human rights violations.

Well, this was a one-shot deal that didn't catch on. Instead the story shifted from New York to Illinois...

In 1880, George Pullman, whose company made sleeping cars for the railroads, designed and built a town near Chicago - Pullman, Illinois - to provide a community for his workers that would be protected from the seductions of the big city. The town was strictly organized: row houses for the assembly and craft workers; modest Victorians for the managers; and a luxurious hotel where Pullman himself lived and where visiting customers, suppliers, and salesman would stay while they were in town. The residents all worked for the Pullman company, their paychecks drawn from Pullman bank, with their rent, set by Pullman, deducted automatically from their weekly wages. The town, and the company, operated smoothly and successfully for more than a decade.

But in 1893, the Pullman Company was caught in the economic depression that gripped the entire nation. Orders for railroad sleeping cars declined, and George Pullman was forced to lay off hundreds of employees. Those who remained had to take pay cuts, even while their rents in Pullman-owned homes stayed at previous rates. So the employees walked out, demanding lower rents and higher wages.

The American Railway Union came to the cause of the strikers, and railroad workers across the nation

boycotted trains carrying Pullman cars. Rioting, looting, and burning of railroad cars soon ensued; mobs of non-union workers joined in. The strike instantly became a national issue. President Grover Cleveland, faced with nervous railroad executives and interrupted mail trains, declared the work stoppage a federal crime and deployed 12,000 troops to break the strike. Violence erupted, and two men were killed when US deputy marshals fired on protesters near Chicago. Finally, on August 3, 1894, the strike was declared over. The union was disbanded, and Pullman employees signed a pledge that they would never again unionize.

As you can imagine, labor was not happy. Protests against President Cleveland's harsh methods made the appeasement of the nation's workers a top political priority; after all, 1894 was an election year! In the immediate wake of the strike, legislation was rushed through both houses of Congress, and the bill arrived on President Cleveland's desk just six days after his troops had broken the Pullman strike. The President seized the chance for conciliation, and Labor Day was born. Curiously, the ploy didn't work - he wasn't reelected. And in a final irony, ever since then, Labor Day has been seen as the unofficial start of the campaign season.

And, in all of this, notice what finally plays out here:

Labor Day was originally intended as a day to honor labor and to stand up for change against wrongs in the world. And yes, by taking a day of rest, Labor Day is a time to recognize the hard work so many people put in to enable us all to live the blessed lives we live. However, the September date should always remind us of just how difficult it is to truly change the world for the better. And, even more, how easily we are kept from doing so – how easily we are appeased: selling out real societal change in favor of an afternoon off and a backyard barbeque.

Jesus said: "What will it profit (a person) if they gain the whole world but forfeit their soul?" (Mark 8:36)

The Apostle Paul said: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2) As Christians, we are in the transforming, not the conforming, business. To be seeking not just what "gets along" with what is; but what works the perfect will of God – that might be.

This Labor Day, as we take a day off, might we each also take time in prayer to ask what causes, as the Body of Christ in the world, we are being called to take up. Not just what labor we can avoid; but what mighty labor we are called to do!

In Christ,
Rev. Clark Lynn Callender

Music Notes

Vel Gambel, Music Director

The Choir resumed rehearsals the last of August and is practicing on the regular schedule: Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:00PM. New members are always welcome. This is a great time to join as we begin a new season. **MEN ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED!** You don't need to be a great singer or to know how to read music to be part of our choir. All are welcome!

Junior Bell Choir will resume practice on Monday evening, September 10. We practice from 5:00 to 6:00PM and then share pizza. New members are welcome. If interested, please speak with me either after worship or call me on the phone: (732) 961-1168.

Letter from the Bishop

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I am back in the office today after attending the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church, at Charleston, West Virginia, where I was assigned as Bishop of the Boston Area (New England Conference), effective September 1, 2012. Bishop John R. Schol, the resident Bishop of the Washington Area (Baltimore-Washington Conference) has been assigned as your Bishop, effective September 1, 2012.

As I reflect on our journey together during the last eight years, I would like to praise our Creator God, in and through the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, quoting St. Paul who said, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now..." (Philippians 1:3-5). Needless to say, it has been a great and amazing Christian journey! Together, we have accomplished and celebrated mighty achievements for the glory of God. We have taken our charge of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" seriously, and demonstrated our passion for mission through our sacrificial giving, service, and witness. It would be a gigantic task to compile the list of all our achievements in the last eight years. We did it together! You have blessed Prema, me, and our family mightily and it would be impossible to express it in human language. I have grown in my ministry, and my spirituality has deepened because of your Christian love and witness. You are wonderful! You are amazing! You are inspirational!

An insert in a bulletin in one of our churches touched me as I read the following statement about your new Bishop, and my brother-in-Christ, Bishop John R. Schol. The insert said, "Bishop Schol's leadership in the Baltimore Washington Conference during the last eight years has brought to the church

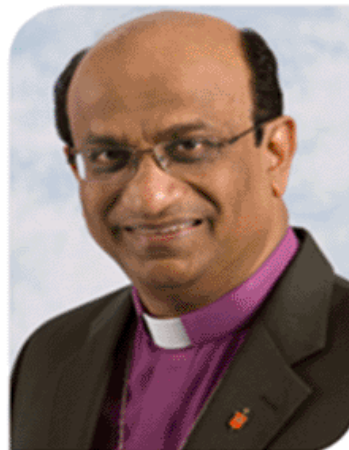
a visionary, strategic mind, servant leader's spirit and a prophetic voice that expresses faith in the transformative and renewing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ." While I agree completely with this statement I would also like to add that Bishop Schol is a leader in the Council of Bishops and a great colleague. Undoubtedly, you will be blessed by his leadership and will enjoy him, his wife Beverly, and their family.

In this transition period, may we be reminded of the words of St. Paul who said, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who make things grow" (I Corinthians 3:6-7). In our ministry, though the role played by each one is important, it is God who makes us grow. As we continue our ministry, it important to acknowledge that each does his or her part, but it is God who makes us grow!

I am very confident that you will appreciate Bishop Schol's leadership as I trust you have appreciated mine. Each of us has different gifts and each one of our gifts is unique. May we keep all the parties involved in this transition in our prayers.

With deep appreciation to and admiration for each and every one of you for your love, kindness, and support to Prema, me and our family.

In Christ's love,
Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar



Healthy Body, Mind, and Spirit

Alice Schovanec

Fall officially arrives September 22, but it is not too early to prepare for flu season. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from complications of the flu each year. An annual flu shot reduces your risk of getting the flu. It takes about two weeks after the shot for antibodies to develop in the body to protect against the flu. A yearly shot is needed as the body's immunity declines and each year the shot protects against the more prevalent flu strains. Flu shots are usually available starting in September. Check with your doctor, health department, or pharmacy. For more information about seasonal flu visit the CDC website www.cdc.gov. For local health department flu clinic schedules go to Ocean County Health Department's website www.ochd.org or Long Beach Island Health Department's www.lbihealth.com.

Missions Committee

Traci Callender

Members of the Missions Committee work in the garden twice week (Tuesday and Saturday). The food we collect on Tuesdays is given to either the Barnegat Food Pantry or the St. Stephens Food Bank (who received a refrigerator from the Monmouth/Ocean County Food Bank because of the fresh food we bring them). The food we pick Saturday we set out for the church members to take and leave a goodwill offering. To date our Saturday harvests have raised over \$200 from the goodwill offering, and this money will pay for the extension that we did to the garden this year and kits (storage container, utensils, a dish and cup) that we are going to give to St. Stephens for the people who live in the pay-by-the-week motels.

Our next meeting will be Sunday September 16th at 10:00 am, we will make plans for the fall and winter them.

Missions Monthly Collection:

September we will be collecting juice boxes.

All donations can be left in designated bins located at both entrances of church.

Come to the Table Soup and Bread Luncheon

Luncheon will resume this October. Soup is served in Fellowship Hall immediately following 11AM worship. Volunteers interested in cooking soup please contact Lorraine Hart via the church office at 609.597.7666.



Sunday School News & Notes...

Sunday School Kick Off!!!
Sunday, September 9th, 2012
9:45AM



Join us for our school year kick off! We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 9:45AM and enjoy a small continental breakfast. Following introductions of teachers, students will go to classrooms. Dismissal will be in Fellowship Hall at 10:45AM.

Welcome New Teacher...



Join us in welcoming Rosemary Molinaro as our new Preschool level teacher. Rosemary and her husband Bob (aka Jungle Bob) joined MUMC about a year and a half ago. Both have been very active within our church family, serving as Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Greeters and

core team members of VBS.

Rosemary taught the preschool level at a previous church for seven years.

A HUGE thanks to Natasha for all her hard work in our Preschool Sunday School program.

Natasha will no longer be teaching our Preschool level, though she will remain on as nursery staff.

While we will miss her in the classroom, we love knowing she will still be around!

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|-------|---------|---------------------------------|
| 9/9 | 9:45AM | Sunday School starts |
| | 11:00AM | Blessing of the Backpacks |
| 9/16 | 8:30AM | Bibles given to 4th & 5th grade |
| 10/21 | 10:00AM | Pumpkin patch. |
| 10/28 | 10:00AM | Trick or Trunk. |
| 11/18 | 10:00AM | Thanksgiving Feast. |
| 12/9 | 10:00AM | Cookie Palooza! |
| 12/24 | 7:00PM | Christmas Eve Program |

Please welcome our 2012 SS team:

| Level | Teacher |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Preschool: | Rosemary Molinaro |
| K-1: | Amy Ray |
| 2-3: | Lorraine Hart Vanessa Estelow |
| 4-5: | JoEva Applegate |
| 6-8: | Joan & Blair Goad |
| HS | Randy Estelow |
| Superintendent: | Kirsten Mosher |

Check out our new website:

sundayschool.manahawkinmethodist.org

VBS Notes

Thank you to everyone who made this year's program the success it was! The goal of our VBS program is to allow area students to experience, explore and express the love of Jesus Christ. We accomplished our goal and more! Several of our new attendees have expressed an interest in our Sunday School program.

Our hearts were warmed by the joy on the children's faces. Many laughs were had, especially in our group led by Mr. Rich (he cracks them up). Our final night's party was a huge success. Thanks to Rosemary and Bob for donating the services of their niece, Kari (a professional balloon artist plus more). All were amazed by Kari's talents and ability to work in the high heat!

We look forward to this coming winter as we will have our first winter program over the holiday break. This

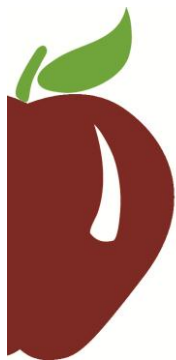
two day program will start on Dec. 30th and end with the New Year's

Eve 'Have a Ball'. All are welcome. Our theme will be announced soon! Stay tuned for details!





Join us on December 9, 2012 at 4PM at the Ocean Acres Community Center for a Madrigal Dinner. Cost is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child (12 & under). This is the perfect family holiday event.



The Manahawkin Methodist Preschool will open its doors for the first day of the 2012-2013 school year on Monday September 10th. We will start our year with full enrollment, a new world culture program for Pre K, new fitness class for all students and a new music room.

Our Beginners will start their year with a unit on families. Each student will bring in photos of their families to place on the classroom family tree. Mrs. Dahlberg and Mrs. Russo will use the photos to help the children adjust to their new class and work on language skills by

encouraging the children to talk about their families.

Our Three's will start the year off with a unit on Teddy Bears. All of Mrs. Kolbmann and Mrs. Jones's students will surely be happy to share their first school experiences with a familiar friend from home. They will work on math skills by creating patterns with Teddy Graham cookies and marshmallows and by reading Goldilocks and the 3 bears; they will learn the concept of small, medium and large.

The Pre- K program will start the year off with a unit about community and how their classroom is like a mini community. They will work together to create classroom rules and talk about similarities and differences they share. As the year continues the children will be exploring various community helpers and also learn about what life is like for children in other countries. The letter T will be introduced and the children will start practicing writing skills in their journals.

This month's Christian Education curriculum will focus on creation. The main focus this year will be about how God created all things and loves all of his creations, even children who live far away or speak a different language. In addition we will focus on the importance of prayer. Our message will be that it's always a good time to pray to God, whether you are happy, scared, sad, excited, or even angry, God is always there to listen.

October plans include a pumpkin patch, Halloween Parades, school pictures and a visit from the fire truck. All classes will learn about the importance of fire safety and we will be practicing our fire drills all month.

Educationally yours,

Kelly Steinberg
Director MMP

THE CROSSWORD
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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.

From
The Prayer Group

**“More work is done by prayer than by
work itself”**

Martin Luther

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