

A close-up photograph of several autumn leaves on a thin brown branch. The leaves are in various stages of color change, showing shades of green, yellow, and orange. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blur of similar warm colors, creating a serene and seasonal atmosphere.

THE CROSSWORD

Fall 2013

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens
-Ecclesiastes 3:1

From the Pastor

Well done, good and faithful servants! (Matthew 25:21)

A friend of mine who runs in marathons once told me that there's nothing like finishing the race well. He said that there's something beyond explanation that you go across the finish line. A great satisfaction and exhilaration! It is worth, he asserted, all the months of hard training and particularly the grueling non-stop running over two hours!

This month, I would like to acknowledge and appreciate three very special people who finished their spiritual races well here at Manahawkin. They are Pastor Blair and Joan Goold and Maria my secretary. May God bless them all! I almost hear in my heart God saying to them, "Well done, good and faithful servants!" and I would say "Amen" to that!

I wish I had known them longer and better. As far as the Gools, as of July 1, Blair was appointed to Cedar Grove UMC as pastor. Although it is a part time appointment, I told him that there's no such a thing as part time pastor. Your mind and soul is all there, day and night—100%! Since every Sunday morning he preaches God's Word to his congregation and will devote himself to the care of his congregation, we both agreed that it is best for the Manahawkin congregation to find the next leaders. As you all know, in the past three years, they have been wonderful Sunday School teachers and Youth leaders. Our hats are off to you, Blair and Joan! You will be greatly missed.

They graciously agreed to lead our youth one more month in September and will cooperate with the next leaders for a smooth transition. I was delighted when Blair and Joan both highly recommended the individuals to be the next youth leaders. And, God is good too that we were able to find our next youth leaders right away: Randy and Vanessa Estelow who truly love our youth. Welcome aboard, Randy and Vanessa! As this new change happens in our congregation, please keep the Gools, our youth, and the Estelows in your prayers.

Also, I was saddened to hear from Maria last month that she would resign her secretarial

position effective November 1. After working for us for 16 years, it's time that she and her retired husband do some traveling. We are very grateful to her for all those years of excellent service for the people of God at Manahawkin. We will greatly miss her. She agreed to stay until the end of October so that our church conference (scheduled on October 30) may go well. Once again, please keep Maria and her family as they enter into a new exciting phase in their lives. Godspeed, Maria! Also, keep the Staff-Parish-Relations-Committee in your prayers as they get themselves busy in search of our new church secretary in the next month or two.

Two more things: Firstly, I would like to share with you what I am going to preach on for the rest of the year. Following the "What We Believe" series in the past two months, I would like to continue on my mini-series until Advent in December. They are "*Live the New Life*" (for six Sundays) and "*Rely on God's Resources*" (for six Sundays) – all titles adopted from *The Navigators Topical Memory System*. Please keep me in your prayers so that God may help the congregation to grow in God's Word through my preaching and teaching.

Secondly, there will be a Blessing of children on Sunday, September 8, at 11 a.m. service. That day, everyone is invited to join the Sunday School as the parents bless their children in the name of the Lord and pray for a good and safe school year. Also, I am going to do a special children's message entitled "Sink or Float?" I believe you will like it! Don't miss this great Sunday.

See you all on Sunday!

Kyewoon



Rev. Kyewoon Choi

Rev. Choi's weekly sermons can be found on the church website in both audio and print format.

www.manahawkinmethodist.org

Lay Leader Report

Submitted by Jody Endebrock, Lay Leader/Worship Chair

I will call my Children from the East and gather them from the West" (Isaiah 43.5)

This seems to be an appropriate verse to call us back from our summer activities, to ready our hearts and minds to the year ahead. These months of September and October seem to "pop" with excitement, ushering in new directions. The change of season seems to say "here I am!" Once again our Church hums with the sounds of Children returning to Sunday School and Youth Programs, Choirs are warming up, Committees are back to business; all making sure we are ready for this new church year. All of us smile as if to say 'here we go' and we roll up our sleeves and dig in. The 'can do people of the can do Church!' And as we do so, we hum He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought or maybe Here I Am, Lord and together we Pray: Father, you teach us we are your Children, you have Blessed us with many gifts and talents, renew our spirits so that we may work in one accord for your Glory and the good of your Church.

So Blessed am I having you -
my Church Family!

Jody

Annual Church BAZAAR

MUMC Fellowship Hall, Saturday, November 2, 2013, from 9am to 2pm. Attic Treasures, New Gift Items, Jewelry, Toys, Books, Baked Table and More. Also, Lunch can be purchased from 11am. More details will be posted in the MUMC Bulletin. Hope to see you there!

Notes from the Worship Committee

Greetings from your Worship Committee!
We're busy and having fun putting together some wonderful Services this year!

To mention a few:

- September 8th: Back to School Sunday. Following our 8:30 Service
Coffee Hour resumes and there will be a Sunday School Special Welcome Breakfast for all Sunday School Parents and Children. At our 11:00 Service all parents and children are invited to participate in a special blessing to begin the new school year.
- September 29th: Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and join our Sunday School Children at 9:45am by bringing your pet or a picture of your pet for a special blessing by Pastor Choi out on our Church lawn.
- October 20th: Laity Sunday. There will be one Service at 10:00am with a "Ministry/Talent Fair" to follow in Fellowship Hall
- October 27th: MUMC'S Family - Stronger Than the Storm! A special recognition for those who were affected by and survived Superstorm Sandy.
- November 3rd: All Saints Sunday. A remembrance of our loved ones who are now with the Lord.

More are in the works so please keep an eye out in the bulletin for additional notices and information.

We look forward to this coming year. Our meetings are open to all - so please come by any time - and please don't ever hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance or if you just want to share some thoughts. Always welcome! ☺

Blessings and Hugs!

Jody

Music Notes by Vel

Music Notes by Vel

Choir will begin the season with a covered dish picnic at the home of Cheryl Conti on Saturday, August 24th. Anyone interested in singing with the choir is invited to come. Our first regular rehearsal will be on Wednesday evening, September 4th from 7:00-8:00 PM. We will sing on Sunday September 8th. This is a great time to come and try us out. If you enjoy singing to praise the Lord – you are welcome.

Junior Bell choir will begin on Monday evening, September 16th at 5:00 PM. We practice for approximately an hour and then enjoy pizza together. New members are needed. If you have finished first grade, you are welcome. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact me: Vel Gamble either after worship or on the church phone at 609-597-7666 or fill out the following form and mail it to me or leave it in the church office.

Name: _____

Group

Interested: _____

Phone

Number: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

COME ONE! COME ALL!

Coffee Hour resumes Sunday, September 8th following the 8:30am Service!

To celebrate we're thinking of giving our Coffee Hour a "hip" name.

Some suggestions:

He Brews (Hebrews----LOL!)

Jehovah's Java Hut (Good one!)

His Grounds (Coffee!)

Kings Kitchen (Sweet!)

Please add to the suggestions - we'll have a basket at Coffee Hour to drop in your ideas. I can feel the juices flowing!

Or maybe we'll just keep it "Coffee Hour." It's ours and whatever its called,

I'm looking forward to sitting around the "kitchen table" with you, sharing

conversations, enjoying the smiles, giggles and laughter!

See you there!

Jody

PS: If you'd like to help run a Coffee Hour or if you can help by bringing a baked good or any good item, we'd love it! There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. The more the merrier! ☺



Welcome back to Sunday School!

Rosemary Molinaro,
Sunday School Superintendent

"Let the children come to Me."
Matthew 19:14.

These are words spoken by Jesus. And as faithful followers of Jesus, it is our responsibility to provide that place where children can come to Jesus – to learn about Him, to worship together and to share and enjoy the gifts He has given each of us.

Hello everyone. My name is Rosemary Molinaro and I am the new Sunday School Superintendent. Last year was my first year teaching Pre-K Sunday School at MUMC, and I can honestly say that I looked forward to seeing the children each week, and I missed them when they weren't there. What a blessing Sunday morning was to have that time with them. To those Parents and children who were in my class, thank you for sharing that time with me! I will still be teaching the Pre-K class and am looking forward to meeting your children for this school year.

Sunday School will begin on Sept. 8th at 9:45. We will meet in Fellowship Hall for a welcome breakfast and a meet and greet with Pastor Choi and our teachers. Following, at the 11:00 Service, Pastor Choi invites everyone to participate in a special blessing ceremony for all Parents and their children. This will take place at the beginning of service and you may leave afterwards, or stay for the remainder of the service.

I would like to encourage you to keep the children coming as often as possible. Sometimes lessons are carried out for a couple of weeks and it is important to have your child get the full meaning. Also, we have so many new activities planned and we want all the children to enjoy them!

As always, there is no cost for our Sunday School program. We do have a donation box; contributions are voluntary and any amount is greatly appreciated.

This will be Pastor Choi's first Sunday School year with us, and he is looking forward to being a big part of our program and is very anxious to get to know everyone.

This is a new beginning in so many ways and our goal, as always, is to provide a Christ-centered environment for you and your children. Please keep me, Pastor Choi, our teachers and the children in your prayers as we begin an exciting Sunday School year.

God bless you and your family.

Mural to be dedicated on September 23 ALL INVITED!

After five years of work the mural in the Fellowship Hall will be officially dedicated on Monday, September 23 at 6:30pm to the loving memory of Carol Smith. Everyone is invited and anyone who has worked on the mural will be asked to sign it that night. Please join us to honor the work the youth have put into this project and to celebrate Carol's legacy in our church.



Missions Committee

Our Mission Garden has been a success again this year, thanks to all the people that prepared the soil, weeded, and planted. We have been picking the produce on Tues. night at 5:00 and Sat. morning at 9:00. With all the rain, we did not have to water and our squash grew in abundance. There is a story about someone ringing neighborhood doorbells, leaving squash, and then running away. The Food Banks on Rt. nine at the Episcopal Church and in Barnegat, loved to see us come.

We gave two kinds of summer squash, many winter squash, cucumbers, string beans, two kinds of peppers, a few eggplant before the beetles got them, a few carrots and beets, and enumerable tomatoes!! Pretty good, but next year we could use more help. Alice Schovanec gave us tomato cages and the tomatoes still grew as tall as my head. Andrea Pharo planted pumpkins for the Fall, so we shall see if we get any of those. Millie Plant made squash pickles that will be for sale at the UMW bazaar along with ten small loaves of zucchini bread by Lovisa Hill. People that picked and weeded while we were away, really kept the garden going. They were the Estelows, the Hanns, and James McShea. Art Hill was faithful taking the produce to the Food Banks two and three times a week. Lastly, I would like to thank the congregation for purchasing some of the produce and making donations. Your money will be used to start next year's garden.

Food collections are an ongoing project. The staff at the Food Banks always are in need, but the following was requested:

Sept. - Pasta and Sauce

Oct. - Cereal and Shelf Milk like Parmalat

Nov - Canned Meats, Stews and Chili

Dec. - Hearty Soups and Saltine Crackers

Have a great Fall and we will see you at the Bazaar and in the garden next Spring!!

Healthy Mind, Body & Spirit

Alice Schovanec

Our children have returned to school and many are involved in school sports. One risk in sports activities is concussion. A concussion is a brain injury caused by a blow or bump on the head. Young brains take longer to heal and should be removed from play if an injury occurs. Athletes should not return to play until cleared by a health care professional. For signs, symptoms, and more detailed information, go to

www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/youth.html

"When Choices Sing, Many Hearts Beat as One"
by Anna Haensch, July 10, 2013

"...researchers of the Sahlgrenska Academy at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden studied the heart rates of high school choir members as they joined their voices. Their findings, published this week in *Frontiers of Neuroscience*, confirm

that choir music has calming effects on the heart -especially when sung in unison."

To read the article in its entirety, go to www.npr.org.

Manahawkin Methodist PRESCHOOL

The Manahawkin Methodist Preschool welcomed returning and new students to the 2013 -2014 school year on September 9th. Our students did amazing the first week, very few tears, and lots of smiles! Parents had a chance to meet and relax with our annual back to school coffee hour in fellowship hall.

Children in our beginners program started their year with a unit on families. Each student brought in photos of their families to place on the classroom family tree. Mrs. Dahlberg and Mrs. Russo used 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.

Mrs. Kolbmann and Mrs. Jones' classes started the year off with a unit on Teddy Bears. The children were so happy to share their first school experiences with a familiar friend from home. They worked on math skills by creating patterns with Teddy Graham cookies and marshmallows and by reading Goldilocks and the 3 bears; they learned the concept of small, medium and large.

Finally our Pre- K students began the year learning the basics of handwriting with our new curriculum from Zaner- Bloser, On the Road to Writing and Reading. Our Prekindergarten students were sliding like the lines in the letters I and twisting and turning like the circles in the letter O.

Everyone at MMP welcomed Dr. Bernard and his "Pawsitive" friends in September too. They came from K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital to teach our MMP friends about healthy eating habits. One of our main themes for this school year is healthy habits and eating right is one of the best things we can do to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Teachers will focus on "eating a rainbow" of fruits and vegetables at snack and lunchtimes and Miss Ellie will keep everyone in shape while having fun during fitness classes. For more information on Dr. Bernard and his "Mission Nutrition" program, visit www.doctorbernard.com. The website offers information and resources for parents as well as interactive games for children. October is one of my favorite times at MMP. Our students begin to settle in and our staff plans so many exciting and educational experiences to support the various curriculum themes. The firemen visit with their fire trucks to teach us about fire safety. We set up a pumpkin patch in the yard and the children explore the life cycle of a pumpkin. Lifetouch portrait studio comes to take our fall school pictures and we end the month with songs and a parade as we celebrate Halloween.



Important Preschool Dates:

September 5th & 6th Student Orientation at MMP

September 9th & 10th First Day of School

September 23rd Toddler Music Program Half Notes begins

October 30th & 31st Halloween Parade

November 4th – 8th MMP Closed for Teachers Convention

November 28th & 29th MMP Closed for Thanksgiving

VBS 2013 A KNIGHT'S CODE THE ARMOR OF GOD

Rosemary Molinaro

On July 22 at just about 6:00 PM, our church was filled with the sounds of music, clapping and excited children (and adults). It was the opening of our week-long VBS program. This year's theme turned our church into a castle and featured a King, a Queen and three brave Knights earning their armor of God: The Sword, representing the Word of God; the Breastplate of righteousness; the Shield of Faith; the Helmet of Salvation and the Boots, to run and share the story of Jesus. Each night, to the cheering and waving of flags from their faithful fans, our Knights proved their worthiness to serve God.

Throughout the week, the children enjoyed wonderful bible stories, crafts, games and sweet treats. They traveled back in time in a magical castle setting, being very careful to avoid the dungeon and its creepy inhabitants! They made catapults equipped with mini marshmallows to defend the castle; and tambourines and noisemakers for the royal parade. On the last night, together with parents, grandparents and friends, we all enjoyed a feast fit for a King....and his Queen.

All of this would not be possible without the dedication of our VBS Team, volunteers and contributions and support from our church family. Together, each year, we have been able to provide a wonderful summer program for children. Our hope is to continue this tradition for years to come.

We extend a very sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who in some way - any way - was a part of a very successful VBS 2013. God bless you and see you next summer!



Pictured above: 'Friar' Choi and our VBS King and Queen, Randy & Vanessa Estelow.

Our four knights

From the Prayer Group

"To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world"

Author Unknown

