

THE CROSSWORD

March & April 2013

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



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PASTOR'S COLUMN

"When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word, what a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey. Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

This has always been one of my favorite hymns. A favorite, that is, until those moments when God asks me actually live it – then I'm not so sure. Such is the situation at hand.

As most of you already know, I have been reappointed. On June 19th, our family will be moving north where I have been assigned to serve as the pastor of Saint John's UMC in Hazlet, NJ. This new appointment comes with great personal struggle and heartache as not only had I seen myself as participating in the tremendous future breaking forth among us here; but even more, I saw MUMC as my home.

However, in prayerful consideration, I have come to see clearly the hand of God in this change, leading all involved on to even far greater things. From my perspective, this is not in any way just some arbitrary decision being made by some human beings, but is in fact the very working of the Holy Spirit in its untiring pursuit of the Kingdom. You want to see really great things? Just wait! We need only get behind this! Trust and obey!

Ah, but there's the rub.

I firmly believe that what God wants for each and every one of us is something far greater than we ever imagine. I also just as firmly believe that wherever God leads, God provides. However, I equally know that, most

often, how and where God leads us seems to us to be, at first, most unsure and even frightening. Fortunately, as Christians we are not in the "what we have hold of" but the "what God has hold of" business.

"When we walk with the Lord... When we do his good will... What a glory he sheds on our way..."

We need only trust and obey.

Easier said than done.

But by the grace of God, done.

In Christ,

Rev. Clark Lynn Callender

Pastoral Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

As most of you know by now, Reverend Clark Callender has been reassigned as of July, 7 2013 to St. Johns United Methodist Church in Hazlet, NJ as their Pastor. His last day to conduct worship services here in Manahawkin United Methodist Church will be June 16, 2013. Several special events are being planned for that day so please keep it open. PPRC will keep you informed of what will be happening.

The search for Manahawkin United Methodist Church's new Pastor has already begun with the PPRC holding meetings to outline our pastoral needs. Fran Noll, our District Superintendent (DS) will be providing candidates to the PPRC starting on February 28, 2013. All pastoral search progress will be provided by PPRC to the congregation as it develops. The

new Pastor will be leading us starting on July 7, 2013.

We have had nine very active years of outstanding sermons and spiritual leadership under Pastor Clark and pray for a truly effective new Pastor to replace Clark. Please give Clark your well wishes over the next few months and enjoy his continued spiritual guidance. This is a significant move for Clark as the St. John's church is nearly twice the size of Manahawkin and one of the largest United Methodist Churches in New Jersey.

Many of you have already expressed your disappointment over Clark and Traci's upcoming departure. Clark has had several years longer with us than the average for a UMC Pastor in our Conference. He did not ask for a move but it does meet his family needs for a move if it had to come about in addition to providing a promotion.

Again, PPRC would like to wish Clark and his family the BEST in this new segment of their lives.



Rev. Callender and his wife Traci

How Does a Reappointment Happen?

You may be wondering who decides when a Pastor is reassigned. Pastoral appointments are an annual process taken on by our Conference.

In a letter to Clergy and Lay Disciples dated 2/11/13, Bishop Schol outlines the process:

"Gifts of God have been handed out above and below, ...gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christians in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. -Ephesians 4:10-13 (The Message)

Dear GNJ Clergy and Lay Disciples of Jesus Christ,

God blessed the church with gifts for leading and serving congregations and world. GNJ is richly blessed with these gifts as evident in our vital ministries and congregations and we want to be faithful to our giftedness through the appointment process.

The cabinet held its appointment retreat at the end of January to assess present appointment needs and begin a season of prayer and discernment. During the retreat, we shared stories of how the Holy Spirit is moving in our congregations and our laity and clergy - *a testimony to Ephesians 4!*

The cabinet meets each year for an appointment retreat because as United Methodists, we covenant to appoint clergy through an itinerant system. Pastors are assigned to the various churches as our founder John Wesley and Bishop Frances Asbury initiated more than 200 years ago. Wesley said it is how we "spread scriptural holiness across the land."

(Continued on page 4)

Preparation for the appointment season began in November. Superintendents assessed each congregation and pastor under their supervision. Each superintendent individually met with the bishop to discuss clergy, congregations, challenges and opportunities.

Our initial assessment indicates that we will have 25 open appointments. Thirteen due to retirements, two because pastors requested an extension ministry, four due to the growth of churches who now seek an associate pastor, one because a church has grown and is moving from part time to full time, and five because pastors chose an inactive status (leave of absence, medical leave, etc.).

As we make appointments, the GNJ Cabinet's mission is to *maximize making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of congregations, communities and the world.*

Through appointments, the cabinet seeks to fulfill the great commission, (*Go and make disciples*) and the great commandment (love God and love your neighbor as yourself) as we transform lives, communities and the world.

The cabinet will meet each week during the appointment season. We ask for your prayers each Sunday and throughout the week as we appoint pastors to our churches.

The United Methodist Church is an itinerant church and pastors commit to itinerate throughout the conference. We also have open itinerancy and we do not appoint pastors based on race or gender, but on gifts and graces.

In our prayerful discernment for appointing pastors we consider the experience, spirit and fruitfulness of our pastors and congregations:

Experience – are clergy and congregations using their gifts from God

Spirit – are clergy and congregations hopeful, courageous, and positive

Fruitfulness – are clergy and congregations growing, making new disciples, building up the body of Christ and using their gifts for ministry and mission (we look at the 10 year track record of a pastor and a congregation)

The denomination's recent *Call to Action* study indicated that our denomination needs *turn-around leaders*. Turn-around leaders are forward leaning leaders who lead congregations to become disciple making and disciple engaging. These leaders are leading their congregations to connect with the non and nominally religious, engage in transformative mission and ministry, mature disciples' faith and grow the congregation.

These leaders thrive in congregations that welcome new people, develop new forms of worship and ministry, and engage in life-changing mission.

We take this opportunity to thank our clergy for your ministry and your willingness to engage in the itinerant system. You have made significant sacrifices for the ministry of Jesus Christ.

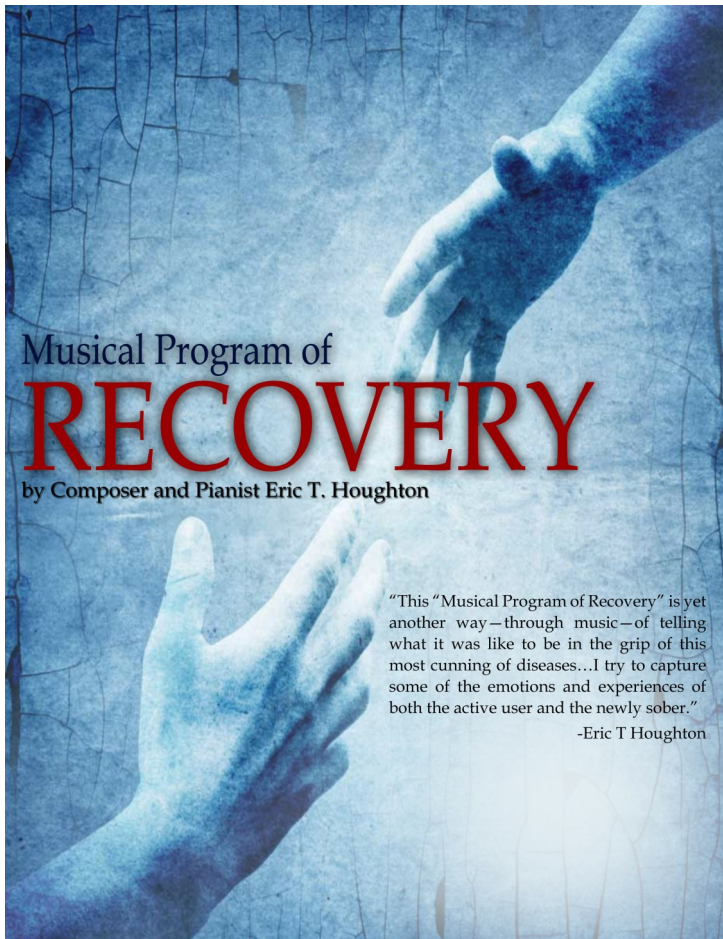
To our laity, we are blessed to have the opportunity to work with you. You support the church with your prayers, financial giving and talents. We pledge to work with each of you so that your congregations and disciples become highly vital.

Each Tuesday morning you will be able to read about the new appointments on our web page, www.gnjumc.org/appointments2013. On the page you will also see a list of 2013 retirees and information about appointment making - history and theology, our values and some of our practices and principles.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

In Christ,

The GNJ Cabinet
John Schol, Bishop



Musical Program of Recovery

by Composer and Pianist Eric T Houghton

Our Worship Committee proudly presents "Musical Program of Recovery" on Sunday, March 17th at 4:00PM in the church Sanctuary.

The composer, Eric Houghton takes the listener on an emotional journey of recovering from alcohol addiction through music.

Houghton shares the following about his works: "A little over two and a half years ago, I was forced to make a choice: Should I live or should I die? I decided the former was a better way to go, and therefore spent a little over a week in nearby Carrier Clinic, rehabbing from chronic alcoholism. While there, I was able to grasp the once absurd notion that it might just be possible for me to survive without ever tak-

ing another drink. With the help of family, friends, God and a wonderful program of recovery, I am here to say that it is indeed possible. Quite more than that, it was the greatest and most rewarding decision I have ever made.

My days are now filled with possibilities. I wrote a memoir based on my experiences at Carrier and my life with alcohol, *Boozehound! Breaking a 30-Year Obsession*, and I have a signed contract from a publisher. My teaching is more rewarding than ever, as is my family-life. Every area of my life has improved dramatically since that fateful day in 2010 when I finally found some honesty.

This *Musical Program of Recovery* is yet another way—through music—of telling what it was like to be in the grip of this most cunning of diseases. Especially in *Recovery* and *Five Anonymous Songs*, I try to capture some of the emotions and experiences of both the active user and the newly sober. I hope you are able to appreciate and enjoy what I was somehow able to create and now share with you."

Worship Chair Report

Jody Endebrock, Lay Leader

Hard to believe Christmas was just over a month ago! Before we blink twice Easter, and then Spring, will be here. Today, despite some snow, or maybe because of it, I find myself humming "I Love You, Lord." "I love you, Lord and I lift my voice; To worship You; Oh, my soul rejoice!" Yes! Yes! Hum along!

Your Worship Committee has been hard at work preparing the upcoming

Services:

March 17th: Anniversary Sunday. We'll honor those 50+ Congregants and acknowledge new candidates. **Also** on the 17th look for our first Fundraiser: *Eric Houghton's "Musical Pro-*

gram of Recovery." This will be held in our Sanctuary at 4:00pm.

March 24th: Brings in Holy Week with **Palm Sunday**.

March 29th is **Good Friday**. We will have a 7:00pm Service. Pastor Clark has a beautiful Clarinet Solo/Prelude prepared for us and the Senior Choir will be signing "*The Crucifixion*" *A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer* by John Stainer. Which leads us right to

March 31st: Easter Sunday! I can hardly wait to hear the very special Anthem planned "*An Easter Jubilation*" ~ the Choir, Bells and Congregation will be participating! Can't we already see the smiles and feel the thumping of our hearts in resounding joy??

April 28th: The Holy Spirit Ringers and the Senior Choir will be together for a beautiful Anthem.

In May (I know, I'm ahead of myself!) we look forward to our second Fundraiser "*A Singing Church with Ed Aniski and Friends*." We are pleased to have this event rescheduled for **Sunday, May 19th** @ 4:00pm in our Sanctuary. Originally, this event was scheduled for last November, and cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy.

In between, know all the Choirs are busy at work as well as many other Committees. All part of God's team glorifying and honoring our Lord. Please keep an eye out for the notices to follow in our Bulletins.

Ah! Yes! "*Take joy my King, in what you hear; Let it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.*"

ManahawkinMethodist PRESCHOOL



Spring is one of my favorite times of the year at Manahawkin Methodist Preschool. Our playground is once again filled with squeals of laughter, Mrs. Selert, with her green thumb, brings our little garden back to life and our classrooms are decorated with flowers and Easter eggs.

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. Parents and grandparents are invited to bring in and read their favorite children's book. Please speak to your child's individual teacher for details about dates and times. We will also hold a book fair in honor of Dr. Seuss on March 4th & 5th. MMP students are invited to "go shopping" at the MMP Book Store. Each book costs \$2 and all the funds raised will be used to fund our field day activities. Lastly Christian Education will focus on 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. . Life Touch Portrait studios will be out on March 21st and 22nd to take spring school pictures. I always love to see how much our friends have grown since October. We will wrap up the month with Easter Egg hunts in each classroom.

MMP has made some changes to ensure our students are cared for in the safest and most loving environment we can provide. The main door will remain locked at all times. A MMP staff member will be present at drop off and dismissal to ensure anyone entering the



Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 24th at
10:30AM

Candy donations needed

building is a parent or guardian of an MMP student. If you need access to the building during regular school hours please ring the bell and a staff member will assist you. If you use a key to enter the building during school hours please make sure you lock it behind you. Due to recent events and at the advice of local law enforcement, it's necessary that all the doors to the church and preschool remained locked while children are present.

As always if you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Educationally yours,

Kelly Steinberg

Director

Music Notes by Vel

The choir is currently practicing for the special Good Friday cantata. Anyone who would like to sing with us is invited to rehearsal on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM.

March and April promises to be a busy time for our music program. We will celebrate Anniversary Sunday at our morning Worship with a special anthem by the choir. In the afternoon, at 4:00 there will be a special music program "Recovery". Details are elsewhere in the Crossword.

March 24th is Palm Sunday. Junior Bells will be playing, and there will also be special music by the Choir. On Friday, March 29th at 7:00 PM, the choir will present the cantata "Crucifixion" by John Stainer. Sunday, March 31st we will celebrate EASTER with special music by the choir, and the Holy Spirit Ringers.

On April 28th, the choir will combine with the Holy Spirit Ringers for a Special anthem.



REMEMBER - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 10! Set your clock ahead!



UMW Report

Joyce Trainor, President

UMW would like to thank all church members for their enthusiastic response to the annual Coworkers collection, two Sundays in February for Neighborhood Center. We were fortunate this year to be able to have Michael Ditalia, of the staff of the Neighborhood Center come to speak with us during two services and church school sessions on Feb. 10th. Obviously, what we have long needed is a personal visit and interpretation of this inner-city

Camden work in order to elicit a resounding response to their needs! It has been truly wonderfully generous. Treasurer John Parker will be giving me the final tally and I will gladly report to you what you have accomplished!

UMW Meetings have been especially interesting this year, starting with our Call to Prayer & Self-Denial Program presented by Dotti Silvestri and Emily Spendiff in January:- a great way to begin the New Year. Support for the Deaconess program was a part of their emphasis, and interesting development of our participation in the technical age we live in was both entertaining and informative.

The National Study of the Women's Division of UMC on Poverty was our emphasis in February. This is a timely and very important program of information and action. So much to learn and to know about!

We look forward to our March meeting with Pastor Clark Callender who each year blesses us with wonderful stories and thoughts to ponder with regard to our faith. This meeting, the second Tuesday of the Month, Mar. 13, at 1:00 in Fellowship Hall is a special one we'd love to have others join us in attending - We welcome you at a single meeting or better yet, to become part of UMW. There's much to do!!

In Christ's Love, Joyce Trainor

From Our Prayer Group

Abba Father God, you sure took M.U.M.C. out of our 'comfort zone' this week. Pastor Clark has been our 'Rock of Gibraltar' for almost nine years. In our humanness we can not conceive life without his fantastic sermons, prayers, guidance and compassion. You, merciful Father, are a good and perfect God. We have to accept that Pastor Clark is needed elsewhere. We know and pray that in what lies ahead we will see your guiding hand. Father, I pray back to you, your words; "For I know the plans that I have for you declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."

HEALTHY BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT

When we think of vaccinations or "shots" we usually think of early childhood immunizations. Today there are "shots" recommended for adults:

- Flu shot is recommended annually for everyone over age 6 months
- One shingles shot is recommended for persons 60 years and above
- One pneumonia shot is recommended for anyone 65 and older
- One Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccination after age 19 in place of a Tetanus booster.
- Tetanus booster every 10 years
- Talk to your healthcare provider to learn what vaccines are recommended for you.

For information about recommended vaccinations for all ages, visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov>

Familycircle.com reports researchers found people who prayed before performing a taxing task had lower blood pressure and felt less anxious than those who did not.

Alice Schovanec

Monthly Missions Collection:

Our Missions Committee collects non-perishable foods each month to distribute to local food pantries.

February: **Tuna Fish**

All donations can be dropped off in the church lobby in designated boxes.