



THE CROSSWORD

NEWSLETTER

January & February 2014 Edition

PASTOR'S CORNER

2014: the Year of Gratitude

As pastor of Manahawkin UMC, I designate 2014 to be a year of gratitude. Actually, I got this idea from the Interpreter's magazine that one Methodist congregation in Oklahoma practiced writing a thank you note each day for the entire year. That brought a tremendous positive impact on their walk with God and on their relationships with one another. I will speak about this more throughout 2014, yet I encourage everyone to make a goal in this coming year to express their daily gratitude to the Lord first, and to the people around us next, until we all form a habit of gratitude in our attitude. Remember the word of God: be thankful in all circumstances, for it is God's will for you (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Don't miss out on the first Sunday of January when everyone attending will receive God's Word in a scroll for the year.

A couple of more things will happen to us in 2014. First, our youth group is going to a summer workcamp this year (more details will follow from Randy and Vanessa Estelow our youth leaders). I have noticed in the past that the youth always love to contribute to the world we live in with their time and effort, especially helping the needy. If you know some youth who can use this great trip, please encourage them to contact our youth leaders so that they too can join in this great opportunity to serve others in the name of the Lord. For the adults, we will look for some hands-on ministry as well.

Next, the Manahawkin congregation is called to join the Mission Fund Campaign along with the other 577 congregations of the Greater New Jersey Conference:

"The people of the United Methodist Church are called to mission – A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign is a conference wide effort to raise more than \$12 million for local church mission, Imagine No Malaria, and Sandy Relief. People need us more than ever right now:

- *650,000 people will die of malaria this year alone;*
- *more than 22,000 of our neighbors are still displaced from their homes nearly a year after the storm; and*
- *our local community has needs that only we can fill.*

United Methodists are responding to the call." We will officially launch our campaign in February. Please pay attention to our newsletter, emails, and bulletin announcements. See you at church!

Pastor Kyewoon



FROM THE PRAYER GROUP

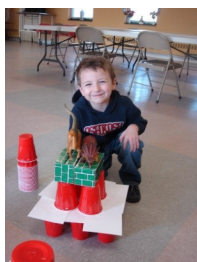
"Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." Psalms 127:1.

Manahawkin Methodist PRESCHOOL

Happy New Year from the Manahawkin Methodist Preschool!

We hope everyone had a merry Christmas filled with health and happiness and good cheer. Mrs. Benson's, Mrs. Mower's and Mrs. Selert's Pre K students did an amazing job presenting the story of the Nativity during their pageant. Mrs. Kolbmann's preschoolers were "rocking around the Christmas tree" during their Christmas show while Mrs. Dahlberg's beginners practiced counting skills with their presentation of "One little, Two Little, Three Little Angels". The preschool was able to collect enough items to send 19 boxes for Operation Christmas child and we raised \$71.58 to help purchase fruit tree seedlings for families in need. We also enjoyed a visit from a special friend from the North Pole.

MMP started a new afterschool club called Builder's club. Block play allows children to create imaginary worlds. While they play, they practice pre-math and science skills like cause and effect, classifying and sorting,



shape and space understanding and problem solving. Engaging in this type of play with peers encourages social skills and develops teamwork. We are growing future architects and engineers at MMP!



As we move into the new year our children will explore a variety of themes this January and February. Topics like penguins, hibernation, and snowflakes will be part of the curriculum. We will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr, Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Washington, and of course Valentine's Day by reading books, singing songs, even making edible log cabins! Our Christian Education will focus on God's love and ways we can show our love for God and our friends and families.

Also this month our preschoolers will be back in the kitchen as we begin a new session of the very popular afterschool program, Kitchen Club. Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays children can join us in Fellowship hall where we prepare a variety of edible projects. Although kitchen club enables our little chefs to practice everything from fine motor to math and science skills, it's mostly a fun and delicious way to end a day at MMP. This session's recipes will include edible Valentines, "One fish, two fish" pizza for Dr. Seuss's birthday.

We'll be wrapping up February with parent/teacher conferences the week of the 24th and to celebrate Dental Health month a visit from a dental hygienist who will talk about ways to keep our teeth strong and healthy.

Worship Committee Report

Jody Endebrock
Worship Chair

A BIG thank you to all who cheered, helped and participated in and throughout our Thanksgiving and Christmas Season.

The holidays are always busy and your Worship Committee, under the direction and guidance of our Pastor, Kyewoon Choi, stayed right with you offering many wonderful Services - and they could not have been possible without you!

Please stay tuned for many beautiful Services to come and please continue to support your Church by signing up to Greet, Usher, Read Scripture and offer Fellowship in Coffee Hour. Many hands make the task light and the heart full. Thank you again!

Blessings to all!

Church Family

Please be gentle with yourself and others,
We are All children of chance,
And none can say why some fields blossom
While others lay brown beneath the harvest sun.

Take hope that your season will come.
Share the joy of those whose season is at hand.
Care for those around you.
Look past your differences.
Their dreams are no less than yours,
Their choices in life no more easily made.
And give.
Give in any way you can.

Starting January, 2014 we are changing the procedure for ordering Altar Flowers. Instead of the signup sheet in the Narthex, we put together a form similar to the one we currently use when ordering our Christmas Poinsettias and Easter Flowers. New procedure:

Please stop in to see or call our Church Secretary (Cheryl Conti) to fill out a new form

Cheryl will confirm the date requested is open

Payment for the flowers is due upon submission of form

Altar Bouquets = \$30.00

Special Basket = \$30.00

Rosebud = \$ 9.00

We appreciate your help in streamlining and coordinating the flow of information. Most of all, we appreciate your active support in glorifying God and adding to the beauty of our Sanctuary.

In Christ's Love
Your Worship Committee

Give in every way you can.

Give whatever you possess.

Give from your heart.

To give is to love. To withhold is to wither.

Care less for the size of your harvest than for how it is shared.

And your life will have meaning

And your heart will have peace.

(Anonymous 17th Century Sermon)

Submitted by
Louise Lovering Jones
Lay Servant/Speaker

Lay Leader Crossword Report

Jody Endebrock
Worship Chair

Here we are in January - celebrating this brand new year! Whether taking down decos, catching our breath from the hustle and bustle of the season past, planning out future dates or getting back to the basics of daily living - we find ourselves marching forward. What visions of the New Year do you share? I find myself humming the words to "Be Thou My Vision" Can you hear the words? "Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light." And, I pray: Thank you, Dear Father, for being our vision, sure as the sun even in the midst of clouds, leading us forward and for reminding us to be strong and courageous for you are always with us...you will never forsake us. (Deuteronomy 31:6) What peace! What joy! What love! We're ready for this new adventure! All God's Blessings, Church Family! Glad to be on this journey with you!

Great News and Greater Challenges

John Parker
Finance Committee Lead

Our stewardship program for 2014 has been great. As of early December we have received 67 pledges, almost double of each of the last two years, with total pledges 50% over last year's total. However, less than a third of the membership has returned a pledge card. If you haven't returned a pledge card, please prayerfully complete a card and return it either via mail or in the offering plate on Sunday. Extra cards can be found in the narthex. It's never too late to pledge.

Our church has paid 7 apportionments in 2013 which is higher than originally estimated to the Conference and is close to the amount of our allocation for 2014. This is an indication of the great work Manahawkin Methodist has done in giving and in reducing our expenses even though giving is less than was anticipated. As shown in the December 8 bulletin the amount needed to date is \$212,348 compared to total giving of \$182,260.

The Greater NJ UMC has a three year mission fund called A Future With Hope which has the goal of raising \$12 million. Of this, \$3 million goes to the vitalization of the local congregations, \$7 million will be used to help the most vulnerable populations with long term recovery from Sandy, and the remaining \$2 million will be used to fight malaria through Imagine No Malaria. This is a bacterial infection spread by mosquito that causes a lifetime of recurring outbreaks of fever and sickness. Most importantly, malaria can be deadly to children and pregnant women who account for most of the malaria deaths in Africa. Look for more information on A Future With Hope in February and March.

Shoprite Gift Cards

Did you know if you purchase Gift cards for Shoprite from the church, the church gets a 5% discount? Starting January 2014, Manahawkin will participate in this program. Remember, you get the full face value of your cards and the church, in turn, gets 5% of your purchase. This is how it works. Millie Plant and Lovisa Hill will receive your orders for the next month by the first Sunday of the month (in January, it is 1/5). Let's say that you want to order a \$100 gift card and that there are another 9 people who also want to have the same amounts ordered. That brings up the total of \$1,000. On every second Sunday (in January, it is 1/12), you write a check payable to Manahawkin UMC with a note: Shoprite. **Do not** put it in the offering plates. Instead, you give the check to either Mille or Lovisa in exchange of the gift cards of equal amounts (No checks, No gift cards). Then, you go to Shoprite and use them as cash for the full value. That's how simple it is. Be sure to understand that this is **NOT TAX-DEDUCTIBLE donations**, because you get the full values back. However, it helps the church financially. Please also note that we need a minimum of \$1,000 order each month to participate in this program, so invite your friends to join as well. The gift cards come in \$25, \$50, and \$100s. Any questions? Please contact the church office.

Youth Group

The youth group has been very busy these past few months.

In October the youth group went to Johnson's Farm in Medford NJ. We had a blast. We went on a hayride out to the pumpkin patch and then we went

through a Corn Maze. We all made it out. We had such a fun time.

In November we had a Spaghetti and Meatball Fundraiser Dinner. We raised \$600.00 for our mission trip this summer. Everyone did such a great job and the food was very good.

In December we will be going out and singing Christmas Carols to all of our shut-in families at our church.

We will also be putting on a New Years Eve Party for the younger Sunday School kids. Hope you have your dancing shoes ready.

Can not wait for the new year to begin. We have so much planned, including a roller skating trip, pancake breakfast, and a Game Night/Lockin.

Randy and Vanessa Estelow

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Rosemary Molinaro
Sunday School Superintendent

As I am preparing this article, we are having our first snowfall, with accumulation of a couple of inches. How pretty it looks outside! Instead of all the beautiful fall colors, everything is now covered in white. I'm not much of a winter person, in fact, I am not a winter person at all, but if its going to be cold, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.

The biggest challenge I have this week is how to fit 150 people in Fellowship Hall for dinner for our Christmas Pageant. Never expected this kind of response! We have 35 children in the pageant, which this year, will take place on a Sunday evening, rather than on Christmas Eve. But this is a wonderful challenge. I know God will provide the space, and hopefully He will perform the miracle of the loaves and fishes to feed everyone.

The excitement of the Christmas Season fills our classrooms. We were able to prepare four Christmas Shoe Boxes with items for boys and girls. We light the Advent Candle each week in the Sanctuary. And we will celebrate Jesus' birthday, the way all kids like to celebrate birthdays.....with a birthday party! Cupcakes, balloons and singing will all be a part of it. No gifts required – just our presence.

Looking ahead to colder days and unpredictable weather, we hope to keep the momentum going at Sunday School with exciting lessons, fun crafts and activities.

Remember to check out our bulletin board in the main hall and also in each of our classrooms to see what the children are up to. None of them are camera shy and they are so proud to display their artwork. Also, you can read monthly updates, along with photos, on our website at

www.ss.manahawkinmethodist.org under **Sunday School News.** I'm sure you will see some very familiar faces!

I'd like to end my column with a little Sunday School joke, so that I know I left you with a smile.

A Sunday School teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the story in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" After a long silence, one little girl said "I think I would throw up!"

Happy New Year Everyone!

God bless you all.

Blood Drive in Memory of Emily Eismann

**Thursday January 16, 2014
12 noon to 5:00pm**

**Manahawkin United Methodist
Church
in Fellowship Hall**

**See Marian Assur at for an appointment
or call**

**Call the American Red Cross at
1-800-GIVELIFE
(1-800-448-5433)**

**or
make an appointment at
www.pleasegiveblood.org**

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 donation 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.**



Thank you to all those who worked so hard to decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas. A special "thank you" to all the children in the MM Pre-school who made the decorations for the tree and for our doors and windows.



Sunday School Christmas

