

THE

CROSSWORD

March & April 2014

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



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Pastors Corner

Lenten Challenge: 40-40-40

Many of us would try something different during 40 days of Lent, typically giving up one pleasure such as meat or chocolate. How about, this year, for a change, adding a new one, that is, spending time in prayer? This is an area most of us are not the best in, right?

Here's the idea. **40-40-40: 40 Days** in Lent (starting on March 5 counting all the days except Sundays through April 19 the day before Easter)—**40 Minutes** (using the Church directory, simply read aloud every name in prayer beginning with "A" and ending with "Z" praying for every family in it --301 families, to be exact)—**40 People** who would join me in this great spiritual endeavor.

Think of it this way: praying for others is a double blessing. The Lord uses your prayers to minister to the people on both ends: the one who is being prayed for and the other who prays (that is you). For instance, one day, I was praying for a member of our church and the Lord quietly prompted a strong urge in my mind to call her. So, when I did that afternoon, it was very timely. She was very pleased to hear from me and I freshly experienced the way God works—through prayers!

Ask yourself: *How many people do I have in my life who would lift up my name and concerns to the Almighty God every day?* Some of us are blessed to have multiple people who pray for us every day. Many others, however, don't have even one single soul who would do that (some of us don't even pray for ourselves!). I am very excited to launch this challenge knowing that **everyone** in our congregation will be remembered in daily prayers this Lent by **40** people for **40** minutes!

I strongly urge you to join me in this challenge **40-40-40**! Let's ring the ears of the Lord with our daily petitions for **40** days for **40** minutes coming from at least **40** prayer warriors for everyone in the Church directory!

Here's how to do it:

1. **Sign up:** on the sign-up sheet in the narthex of the church.
2. **Pick up:** the Daily Check List from the narthex to mark your progress.
3. **Lift up:** your church family in prayer starting March 5. Need a directory? Pick one p from the narthex.

See you in prayer!

Kyewoon



Music Notes by Vel

When winter comes, spring can't be far behind! The choir is busy preparing for Spring and EASTER! If you like to sing, you are welcome to come and sing with us. We love making a joyful noise to the Lord. No previous experience or music reading ability is needed. In addition to special music for Lent and Easter, we are planning a special service of Praise and Thanksgiving for April 27th, the Sunday following Easter. There will be just one service that day at 10:00 AM.

Junior Bells continue to practice at 5:00 PM Mondays, and to play for worship services the second Sunday of each month. They will wind up the year by playing on Mother's Day.

We continue to collect empty ink cartridges for the music budget. There is a white waste basket in the vestibule for them.

COME SING WITH US!

QUILTERS NEWS

The quilters meet every Wed. morning after 9:30 AM and quilt until 2:30 PM. We work on quilt tops that have been made by others. They are then sandwiched with batting and a backing and stretched on a 200 year old frame that was Martha Cranmer's grandmothers. We quilt each one by hand and charge according to the size. The money is given to the church so they can purchase a new roof. We are an important part of your church and there have been quilters here since the church was built.

We are always looking for new members. If you can make a needle go up and down in the material, you can quilt. Bring your lunch and a basic sewing kit and join us on Wednesdays. We have wonderful fellowship.

Mildred Plant, Dottie Silvestri, Doris Brotherton, Iris Steinmetz, Jane Haines, Sunwoo Choi, Lucille Hann, and Lovisa Hill

Mission Notes

Spring is just around the corner and we have to start planning our garden. The Food Bank is already asking if we are going to have it because the recipients are so appreciative of fresh food.

We will need to have people to help prepare the garden, plant the vegetables, and harvest and maintain. Wouldn't you enjoy giving joy to others through this mission? We will meet to plan at 10:15 on March 16th, after coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see many of you there!! Thank You.

Art and Lovisa Hill

Worship Committee

Greetings from your Worship Committee! Once again we are busy putting together many wonderful Services! To mention just a few:

- Wednesday, March 5th
Ash Wednesday; the beginning of Lent. This year we will be having a 7:00pm Service
- Sunday, March 9th

Anniversary Sunday. We will celebrate our 211th year! We'll also recognize those who reach 50 years of faithful service to Christ's Holy Church and thank all those who reached this milestone in the past.

- Sunday, April 13th
Palm Sunday. We'll also celebrate Scholarship Sunday
- Thursday, April 17th
Holy (Maundy) Thursday. We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a very special Service at 7:00pm
- Friday, April 18th
Good Friday. Pastor Choi has planned a beautiful Service based on Lessons and Hymns 7:00pm
- Sunday, April 20th
EASTER Sunday! Oh! Can you hear the Alleluias now??
- Sunday, April 27th A special Service of Praise and Thanksgiving is in the works. Please note: Only ONE Service for this Sunday, April 27th @ 10:00am

Please keep an eye out for additional information and notices in our Sunday Bulletin or on our web site: www.manahawkinmethodist.org

PS: Greeters, Ushers and Readers wanted!! J Please let me know if you would like to help. We also have sign-up sheets downstairs in our Narthex. We're also looking for help with our Coffee Hour (Sunday Mornings) March, April and May. And please don't forget our Altar Flowers you may order these by contacting our Church Secretary, Cheryl.

I look forward to working with each of you to make this season a very special one indeed and I thank you for all your help.

God's Love for All!

Jody

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

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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 Fund-raiser 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 went out and sang Christmas Carols to all of our shut-in families at our church.

We also put on a New Years Eve Party for the younger Sunday School kids. The dancing didn't stop all evening and a good time was had by all.

Cannot wait for the new year to begin. We have so much planned, including a roller skating trip, pancake breakfast, and a Game Night/Lock-in.

Randy and Vanessa Estelow

Lay Leader Report

Under the direction of our brilliant Music Director, Vel, the choir has been practicing a beautiful Anthem called the "Canticle of Love" (Jos. M. Martin). It's based on 1st Corinthians:13 (love is patient, love is kind). A beautiful Anthem; a beautiful Bible passage. I'm particularly grabbed by the words "If we gain all knowledge and wisdom, if we join with the heavens in song, if deep in our souls love takes control, life will have meaning, Christ will be leading, God's love redeeming us all."

Love. The love God has for us "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son" (John 3:16) we hear it all the time and know God was pleased with Him "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased" (Matthew 17:5). When I reflect on the love God gives; the love Jesus has for each of us, I sometimes shutter. Pastor Choi's Sermon Series "Being Christ's Disciples" has me thinking too. I realize how short I fall; how I wish to give God my all. Just about the time I feel totally inadequate, I recall another Sermon preached some time ago by our then Pastor, Vivian. The title long escapes me but a phrase has stayed with me since and at times, has become almost a mantra! My version of the sermon goes something like this: Pastor Viv performed a wedding ceremony the day before, and with permission from the groom, she

incorporated part of his vows into her sermon. "Far from perfect...full of promise!" Does anyone else remember this? I remember the smiles, giggles and even outright laughter as she divided us into two groups... one half shouting the words "FAR FROM PERFECT!!!" the other in equal volume "FULL OF PROMISE!!!" And although I know there are many, many Bible verses to reflect upon, and I do, these are often the words that cause me to smile and carry me forward. A new beginning, a new strength...a renewal. That's what these months of March and April bring as well. We see and feel it once more in the change of our seasons... coming out of the often bone chilling winter into the warmth of spring. All of nature seems to breathe a collective sigh of relief. We do the same in our Church Services – marching into Lent, walking through Holy Week to the glorious celebration and light of Easter Sunday! Far from perfect...full of promise! The promise of, NO! the knowledge of, our Jesus lives – that His love for us – no matter who or what we are – do or fail to do – reaches beyond anything and everything – forever carries us forward to the light and joy that only He can give. *And I pray: Lord Jesus, thank you for making me... me. Thank you for teaching, leading and helping me learn that I need not be perfect – for with you – I am, full of promise.*

Thank you sweet Church Family...for all you do and are! It's wonderful to be on this journey with you!

Blessings and Hugs!

Jody, Lay Leader

UMW Report

UMW thanks most sincerely all members of our congregation who have supported the Neighborhood Center Co-Workers appeal on the 9th & 16th of February. At this writing we are in the midst of our appeal so have no totals to report, but so far the response has been most generous, largely due to the presentation of Scott Susich February 9th, who provided a face and an informed up-date on the work of Neighborhood Center.

We have been pleased to welcome new members to UMW both at our January Meeting Program on "The Call To Prayer & Self-Denial ", beautifully presented by Dottie Silvestri & Emily Spendiff , and again at our February Meeting and Program "Immigration & The Bible" so ably interpreted and led by Eileen Mahan. We are so pleased to welcome any and all women of the church to our Fellowship and work in Mission-support.

Especially important to us is our program for our March 11th UMW Meeting-Pastor Choi will be leading us, and, of course, we have been blessed in the presence of Sunwoo Choi in our membership since their arrival among us.

We are participating in the annual World Day of Prayer - this year's service is prepared by the Women of Egypt and is especially timely and interesting. This year's World Day of Prayer is held March 7th at 1:00 at St. Francis Church on LBI. There are 8 churches participating, and we hope members of our congregation will support,

and be present at this special Worship Event.

This has been an exciting start to a challenging new year-wonderful programs, supportive women, and great fellowship. Won't you join us? Our annual Sub-Sale in support of Neighborhood Center is coming up in April.

Come and help- we all, and our mission program will be the beneficiaries!

Joyce Trainor, President UMW

Manahawkin Methodist PRESCHOOL

The Manahawkin Methodist Preschool welcomes spring! Look for classrooms decorated with flowers and Easter eggs and listen to the sounds of laughter as we return to our beloved playground.

March will be a busy place at MMP. We begin the month with our annual green eggs and ham breakfast in honor of Dr. Seuss. Parents and grandparents are invited to bring in and read their favorite children's book. Registration for the 2014-2015 school year will

also take place this month. Current MMP students can register in Fellowship Hall on March 5th and March 6th beginning at 8:45 am. Registrations for non MMP students will be taken after March 6th. Forms will be sent home and made available on the preschool website, www.manahawkinpreschool.com. Be sure to bring a smile to school on March 20th and 21st, because Life Touch portrait studio will be back to document how much our students have grown since the fall. Also our Pre K students will be photographed in cap and gown attire to celebrate their transition from preschool to kindergarten. MMP will hold its first school wide PJ day on March 13th and 14th. All students and staff will be comfy and cozy as we come to school in pajamas! We will have a special popcorn snack and watch a short video in Fellowship Hall as we put winter to bed and welcome spring! Finally we will wrap up the month with a book fair in Fellowship Hall. All our 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. Christian Education in April 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. The preschool will be closed the week of April 14th for Spring Break and Easter celebrations.



**"When the cares of my heart are many,
Thy consolations cheer my soul"**

Psalms 94:19 - The Prayer Group