



THE CROSSWORD

Manahawkin United Methodist Church

www.manahawkinmethodist.org

MAY & JUNE 2014



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Easter Sunday April 20, 2014

Pastors Corner***The plant in the garden of your heart*** (Mark 4:1-20)

Some years ago in Michigan, one day in June, my family planted four plants of zucchini in our garden. The following night, something totally unexpected and terrible happened. The temperature dropped down to 30 degrees (yes, anything is possible in Michigan), and it almost killed those plants. When I saw them the following morning, they seemed dead with all the leaves and stems drooping on the ground.

Discouraged, yet, not totally despairing, I watered them anyway, hoping that they would come back. The next day, I went out again to check on them, lo and behold, all the drooped stems were popped up, showing signs of liveliness again. I was not only delighted with the plants coming back to life, but I was also amazed at the power that made it all possible. It was the power within the plant that brought the almost-dead plants back to normal again. I would call such power **life**.

Speaking of **life**, Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the **life**" (John 11: 25). He also said, "What I have spoken are spirit and **life**." (John 6:63). Since we became Christians, Jesus Christ is in us through His Spirit. In other words, Jesus the **life** dwells in us as the life-giving source in our lives.

If we can call our heart a garden, in every believer's heart, there is one plant growing--- the 'plant of God's word' (first as seed, later grown into a plant). Imagine yourself taking a look at the very plant in the garden of your heart. How is your plant doing? Do you see some stems of your plant drooped? Do you see the stem of love poisoned by hate and resentment? Do you see the stem of hope killed by despair and frustrations? Do you see another stem choked by anxieties and lusts? Or, is the whole plant in your heart completely flat?

If you observe any of these unhealthy signs, don't you think it is time for the life-giving Spirit of God to be at work? What should you do? Give over the control to the life-giving Holy Spirit in you and let the Spirit be in charge. Simply listen and obey Him. You may need to forgive somebody. You may need to restore your trust in God. You may need to cast away anxieties and cares to the Lord, acknowledging that

they do no good. Then, and only then, will you see the plant of God's word come alive again, just like the zucchini plants. Amen.

Kyewoon



P.S. Starting this issue, Edna Winans will be our new editor for Crossword. Special thanks to Kirsten Mosher for her excellent work in the past years. Thanks in advance to Edna for her willingness to serve God's people at Manahawkin UMC.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Once again a sincere **thank you** to all those who participated in, helped with and joined in, the many wonderful services held throughout Lent and our Easter Season. We are indeed blessed! Also a warm and grateful thank you to our Music Director, Vel Gamble, to Joe DelVecchio and to our Choirs for their dedication and hard work; for the beauty and joy they bring to our Services. The Bell Choir wraps up their "season" on the 25th of May and the Senior Choir follows on the 1st of June. We already miss you.

As is our tradition, Coffee Hour closes for the summer on the 25th of May. Last but not never, ever least, a thank you to all those who helped provide this wonderful time of fellowship and hospitality.

Although it seems many things are coming to an end, know in your heart it is not so. Your Worship, and many other Committees, are still busy at work, planning many Services to come. The summer months provide an excellent opportunity to come on board; try new things – maybe Usher/Greet/Read? We're always looking for new faces and talents to grow and serve. Each has a unique gift and we are grateful.

Lastly I could never end without thanking each of you, my sweet Church Family, for being you – for all you do and are! Happy Summer!

Blessings and Hugs!

Jody Endebrock
Worship Chair

Music Notes by Vel

The *Adult Choir* will be singing through Sunday, June 1, then taking off for the summer. Some of our members have expressed an interest in singing in the Ocean Grove Choir Festival on July 13..

We will be rehearsing for that on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested in joining us, please let me know so that I can order music.

The *Junior Bells* will play for Mothers Day on May 11, and then take a short break. They will have a summer program from June 30 through July 21 and play for Worship on July 27th. Any child who has finished first grade is welcome to join. If you have one who wishes to join, please fill out the following information and give it to me or leave it in the church office for me.

Name _____

Birthdate _____

Parent/Contact name _____

Telephone # _____

Practice is tentatively scheduled for Monday afternoon from 4 -5 pm followed by pizza.

I am tentatively planning to offer a music reading/sight singing class if there is sufficient interest. It would probably begin at 7:00 pm and last an hour or so. If you are interested, please fill out the following form and return it to me or leave it in the church office:

Name _____

Telephone # _____

E mail _____

Please indicate your preference of day (list 1, 2 and 3).
Thank you

Mon _____ Tue _____ Wed _____ Thurs. _____

Thank you. Vel

MAY EVENTS

May 3 –9:00AM Trustees Clean-Up at Church

May 4– 8:30 & AM Communion

May 5 - 6:30PM Mother/Daughter Covered Dish Supper

Our Fiscal Fitness

As you can see from the weekly bulletin, the generosity of the congregation has enabled us to pay all the bills with a little left over as donations are on target and expenses are below our plan.

A Future With Hope has the mission to restore homes damaged by Hurricane Sandy for the elderly, disabled, and impoverished, to provide treated nets to protect children from the mosquitoes that carry malaria, and to provide funds for local missions. This is a three year project of the NJ Conference that has a goal of raising \$12 million with \$7 million allocated to putting people back in their homes by rebuilding and repairing 300-500 homes, \$2 million allocated to eradicating malaria by 2015, and \$3 million allocated to revitalize local congregations through local missions. Manahawkin United Methodist has committed to contributing \$11,000 to A Future With Hope, \$3,000 of which is anticipated to come from the generous donations of the congregation. So far, we have already raised \$805 of the \$1,000 anticipated for 2014.

If your company matches contributions, you can contribute directly to the organizations at the following addresses in addition to the fundraising efforts of Manahawkin United Methodist Church:

A Future With Hope, Inc.
1001 Wickapecko Drive,
Ocean, NJ 07712-4733
UMC – Imagine No Malaria
PO Box 440544
Nashville, TN 37244-0544

John Parker, Finance Chair

Bowling Fun - Stay Tuned for the fall Startup



REAL PROPERTY

Have you ever thought about real property? We all own and use real property every day. What is real property and why is it so important? Real property consists of lands and improvement to land, buildings, and facilities. It includes equipment affixed and build into the facility as an integral part of the facility (such as heating and air conditioning systems, elevators, chair lifts, and installed carpeting and flooring). To better understand real property and how it relates to the Manahawkin United Methodist Church let us substitute the word facility with the word church. Real property is so important that the Book of Discipline identifies it as the number one primary responsibility of the Board of Trustees. Paragraph 2532.1 states; "The board of Trustees shall have the supervision, oversight, and care of all real property owned by the church or any society, board, class, commissions, or similar organizations connected therewith."

So, the next time you come to church think about real property and take a look around. You walk into the church through the front doors; use the stairs, chair lift or elevator to reach the sanctuary; walk down the carpeted aisles, and take a seat in a pew mounted to the floor of the Church building. During the service you are kept comfortable by the installed heating and air conditioning system and participate in the worship service with the electricity provided for the lighting, sound system and organ. When the service is over you walk back down those carpeted aisles to the stairs, chair lift or elevator to go back down and out the front doors.

This is the first of two articles about the types of property we own at the church. The next article will focus on church equipment and church property. Take a minute sometime and make a list of what you think church equipment and church property might be. See how close you come to what I identify. You might even list some items I may have overlooked. Good luck. The Board of Trustees would like to thank all our members for their continued support to our church and the assistance you provide us with your time, talents, and service to spread the love of Christ. We couldn't do it without you.

Roy George, President
Board of Trustees

FOOD PANTRY

Letter of appreciation

From: Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church
Waretown, NJ

February 19, 2014

To: Manahawkin Methodist Church

Dear Generous Parishioners,
This is to acknowledge and thank you for your generous donation to St Steven's Food Pantry.

We so appreciate all the food you collect for us.

In 2013, we served over six thousand people and you have helped to do this.

Thank you again for your kindness and concerns for the lives of families in our community..

Sincerely,

Deborah Carr
Parrish Administrator and
Food Pantry Coordinator

Sunday School Humor:

How do I get into Heaven?

A teacher asked the children in her Sunday School class, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale

And gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?"

"NO!" the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the lawn and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into

heaven?" Again the answer was "NO!" "Well then, how can I get into heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted, "You gotta be dead!!!"

Now keep smiling for the rest of the day!!!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Submitted by Rosemary Molinaro, Sunday School Superintendent

Another great month at Sunday School! Jo-Eva Paul Applegate, our 5th/6th Grade Teacher lead Sanctuary time for the Month of March. Each week Jo-Eva gave the children great lessons on lent and St. Patrick's day. Along with Jo-Eva, was her son, Joel, who played piano for the children. What a terrific job he did playing the Doxology, the B-I-B-L-E song and Father Abraham. New to me were the body gestures that went along with Father Abraham, which Audrey Eismann demonstrated for everyone! The Sanctuary was alive with our Sunday School "Band" praising God in song and dance.



On Sunday, March 16th, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day. Jo-Eva gave information on the life of St. Patrick. The children learned that the color green comes from the shamrock and the beautiful Emerald Isle of Ireland. They also learned that St. Patrick used the shamrock to demonstrate the three persons in the Trinity - God, our Father; Jesus, His son and the Holy Spirit.

Everyone was Irish on that day. We celebrated special St. Patrick's Day events of Randy Estelow's birthday and my wedding anniversary.

As part of the celebration, the children wore their greenest green - some a little more than others - great job Charlie O'Ray!



This year, for Easter, the children will re-enact the events of Holy Week with a program presented on Palm Sunday during Coffee Hour. Following this program will be the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Be sure to look for pictures of these two events on our web page and bulletin boards. I am always proud to display what our children are doing for the Lord. We have a great teaching staff and amazing kids!

May God bless us with a warm and beautiful Spring!

As many of you know our long time member Joan Bolton joined the angels in heaven March 13th of this year. Joan was a strong presence within our Community and here in our Church; serving in many positions and on many committees from Sunday School to Church Council to Lay Leader.

Thanks to her daughter and member Beth Schenck we are blessed to have this copy of "Words of wisdom from Joan Ann Bolton" and felt it an honor to re-post today.

We cherish these wonderful words as we cherish Joan's memory and her legacy left to us.

Words of wisdom from Joan Ann Bolton

(Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great grandmother (GG), Sister, Aunt, Cousin, Friend, Neighbor ...)

*"This is an excerpt taken from Joan's handwritten notes
as she prepared to take part in a church service many years ago."*

Romans 12:12 "Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble and prayerful always." It says in Romans 12:12 we should be patient in trouble. When we meet with trouble in our daily lives we should think back to all of the blessings which he has given to us, answers to prayer, joys that we never expected and all the cares he has lifted from us along the way as we have gone through life.

Another verse which always comes to my mind in time of trouble is Psalms 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a tested help in times of trouble." We should rejoice in his strength, feel confidence in him as we lift our voice to him in prayer. We should be prayerful at all times, not just in times of trouble but constantly pray with rejoicing and thankfulness.

Be glad for all that God is planning for you. As I read once "The gift of gladness is the greatest and the best gift. It is to the soul what health is to the body."

When we talk about our faith in God, we should talk about it with joy in our voices and a smile on our face. The dictionary defines rejoice as the feeling of joy or great delight. To know God and put your faith and trust in him always gives you this wonderful feeling of joy and delight. So let us all rejoice in his name.

The word that I often think about is rejoice. Psalms 118:24 "This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it." Each time I read this scripture it reminds me of many things that I feel that we should rejoice about. We should be happy because God has given us life. He makes the sun shine, the rain fall, the seasons change and for all these great and glorious things we should rejoice. He provides us with food, clothing, and all of our daily needs. He gives us family and friends to share our joys and our sorrows. He has provided us with the gift of freedom to worship him and has given us this beautiful church to worship together in. Our Lord is always loving and kind. We can never list all of the miracles he has performed for us. We can never praise him enough.

Blessings and love to all,

Joan Ann Bolton

October 13, 1932 – March 13, 2014



Spring has sprung, summer is almost here and MMP is alive with activity. April arrived with caterpillars, worm farms and ant farms. These classroom pets helped us learn that all God's creatures have a purpose and are special. They also allowed our students to explore math and science concepts. Careful observations were made and graphs and charts were used to track the progress of the caterpillars as they went into their chrysalis and later emerged as butterflies. In May we celebrate Mother's Day; we will take this time to teach the children about Mary and use our fine motor skills to create beautiful gifts for our mothers and grandmothers. The annual Pre K Mother's day tea will take place on May 8th and May 9th at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. The students will present gifts, sing songs and recite poems to honor their Moms on this special day. May also provides us with the opportunity to get out and explore our community. The preschool will participate in two walking field trips, one to the Stafford Library and the other to the Pretzel Factory. Field trips are wonderful hands on learning experiences that allow the students to see how businesses in our community work. The Pretzel Factory is especially hands on because the children get to make pretzels and then taste them during snack time at school.

In June, MMP will celebrate field day on June 4th & 5th. Obstacle courses, relay races, and parachute games will keep us moving that day and allow for our preschoolers to show off all those gross motor skills they've developed throughout the school year. Ice pops and medals of participation will close out this fun and memorable annual event at MMP. Pre K graduation is scheduled for Friday June 13th at 9:30 in the sanctuary. We have 38 students going off to kindergarten this year and many of them have been with us for several years. We are so proud of our graduates and all they have accomplished while at MMP. This is also the last day of school for all MMP students.



Thank you to all who support the preschool. I wish you all a happy and healthy summer.
Educationally yours,
Kelly Steinberg