



THE CROSSWORD

Manahawkin United Methodist Church

July/August 2014



***Bob Molinaro and John Hauge part of the
Flagpole Restoration Team.***

In this Issue:

- **Pastor's Corner**
- **Get Ready for VBS**
- **UMC Greater New Jersey Conference**
- **Manahawkin Methodist PreSchool**

GOD Bless America

PASTORS CORNER

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! (To all members, friends, and volunteers)

Dear members and friends of MUMC,

It's hard to believe that a year already passed since I came to Manahawkin. It flew right by me!

As I write this article, my heart is overflowing with gratitude to God first for His grace and mercy and to you next for your kindness. A year ago, in His everlasting plan and purpose, God sent me and my family here and you welcomed us with grace and love. I am forever grateful.

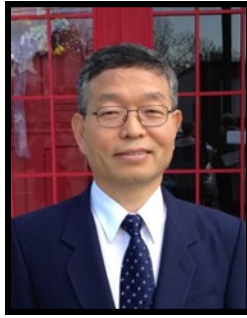
As I look back, a lot of things happened since then. Some changes took place on our staff (new secretary, new youth group directors). The parsonage kitchen was renovated. New programs and services were added (Blessing of children/ Advent Dinner/ Youth Summer Workcamp/ Lenten Challenge/ Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services). 25 enthusiastic new members joined. 15 baptisms were administered (one adult and 14 infants). A new stewardship program was introduced with a great success: giving is up and we caught up with our Shared Ministry giving to the Conference (a.k.a. 'apportionments'). Confirmation class was held. Youth workcamp is coming up in July...

Whew! I feel like I was in a whirlwind of change and excitement. It has been the most productive year in my 24 years of ministry. I realize, though, it's not a time for me to sit back and enjoy. It is rather a time for evaluation and re-focus. It is also a time to remember partners in ministry—those who have worked hard together with me for God's Kingdom. That's why I am writing this article: to express my gratitude and heartfelt thanks for your prayers, support, and participation. Without you, all these good things would not have happened. I look forward to working with you.

By the way, I have already started praying for our next steps. What should we focus on for the next five years? What does the Lord want us to do in the coming years? Soon, I will invite you to Ministry Table where we will have a 3 HT session—**Heads, Hearts, and Hands Together**—session. Start asking the Lord about the directions He wants us to go in and about the needs in our communities and how we as the body of Christ can serve them in the name of Jesus our Lord.

See you at church.

Kyewoon



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Lay Leader Entry Crossword July/August 2014

Submitted by Jody Endebrook

Summer is full of fun activities “active” being the operative word. Walking, running, swimming – ah! A little bit of sun and warmth re-charges our weary winter worn bodies and souls.

So it is with our spiritual life – we come to Church in the cool of the summer mornings - sitting in the glow of our Sanctuary – basking in the peace and love surrounding us – praising our Lord and God with grateful hearts.

It is here that we find ourselves truly renewed – ready to take on whatever life may bring.

In Hebrews 12:1 Paul encourages us to “run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith”

Isn't it nice to know that we need not worry if we finish first or last? Our Heavenly Father waits for us with open arms – embracing each as we cross the finish line.

I find myself humming “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” – the words “look full in his wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.” So soft - His love for us.

And I pray: Thank you most precious Jesus, for showing us the way. For being our faithful guiding light whether we run to you lickety-split, or walk, or crawl weak and bruised – you are there cheering us on – often running, walking, crawling alongside of us. Give us the insight to truly know your love – to feel your embrace – to praise your Holy Name. Amen.

Blessings and Hugs Sweet Church Family – Blessings and Hugs!

Jody

Jacob was a cheater, Peter had a temper,
David had an affair, Noah got drunk, Jonah
ran from God, Paul was a murderer, Gideon
was insecure, Miriam was a gossip, Martha
was a worrier, Thomas was a doubter, Sarah
was impatient, Elijah was depressed, Moses
stuttered, Zaccheus was short, Abraham was
old, and Lazarus was dead... .

**God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies
the CALLED!**

Re-post this if you know you are NOT perfect,
but that God is working in your life anyway...

Music Notes by Vel

The annual choir festival will be held in the Great Auditorium of Ocean Grove at 7:00 PM on Sunday July 13. A small group from our choir will be participating. This is a great opportunity to hear an excellent program of sacred music with approximately 1000 singers, full orchestra and organ.

JUNIOR BELL SIGN UP

Junior bells will rehearse on Monday afternoons at 4:00 PM, followed by pizza at 5:00 and dismissal at 5:30. We will begin on July 7 and go through August 11th (skipping July 21 due to Vacation Bible School) and play for worship on Sunday August 17th. Any child who has completed first grade is eligible to join. This summer is a good opportunity for a child to try out bells without committing to the full year. If you have a child who is interested, please fill out the following form and give it to Vel or turn it in to the office ASAP. Thank you.

NAME OF CHILD _____

NAME OF PARENT _____

BIRTHDAY OF CHILD _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

E MAIL _____

Our new "Intermediate Bell Choir" will resume practice on August 4th at 6:00 PM.

Experienced ringers interested in joining this group are asked to contact Vel ASAP.

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

Thank you. Vel

News From the Holy Spirit Ringers

Last season was very exciting for the bells. We thoroughly enjoy being part of the worship service once a month. In December we entertained the local Quilter's Guild and also took part in the Christmas Eve Music. This past May, our United Methodist Women and the women of Terrace United Methodist Church both asked us if we would provide the musical entertainment for their Mother/Daughter dinners, which we gladly did.

We are looking forward to resuming in October and are planning some wonderful music.

If anyone would like to join our bells, please contact me.

Thank you to our bell players for your dedication.

Joe DelVecchio, Director

609-597-6479

Trustees Our Fiscal Fitness

Dear brothers and sisters. Where has the time gone? With the first half of the year behind us our giving has continued to outpace our expenses and we are building a cushion to help us weather the lean times that we know will eventually befall us.

But, we are also considering some needed repairs such as the organ speaker that no longer works, an upgrade to the audio system to allow for better hearing and more flexible services, and improved video infrastructure so that we can incorporate a little multimedia such as video clips and graphics to help better communicate God's Word. By funding these now through the general fund we will relieve some of the pressure from the Trustees who have made up the shortfall that we had for a number of years so that they can focus on some of the bigger issues like roof repair. Where we spend our funds is up to the congregation and will be discussed at the Church Council meeting in September.

A Future With Hope continues to progress and so far has raised \$3.6 Million of the \$12 Million dollar goal and, in the process, 48 people have been able to go back home and 4600 precious lives have been saved from malaria. A disabled veteran whose son had to drop out of college to help the family recover was helped. A young first generation family who had a broken drainage pipe leaking under their children's playroom can now know that their children are safe. A school teacher in Atlantic City who had rain coming through her damaged roof for more than a year after Sandy is now dry. But there are still 250 homes that AFWH with its 20,000 volunteers plan to work on. Local missions are being funded all across New Jersey such as Crop Walk, ESL classes, Peter's Pantry, Family Promise, a senior living center, and more. Your generous donations have made this happen. As we rejoice over the work that has been accomplished, let's remember there is a lot more to be done and we need to continue to contribute our talents and our treasures to make this happen. So far this year we have donated almost all of our \$1,000 annual goal and 25% of our donation will be

used for a local mission that the congregation needs to decide upon. Let us know if the Holy Spirit is tugging at your heart for a specific local mission and we can discuss at a future Church Council.

Thank you for your prayerful generosity as we work together to bring glory to our Lord Jesus.

John Parker

Finance Committee



The 2013/2014 school year ended on June 13th. MMP recognized 37 students in a graduation ceremony in the sanctuary followed by refreshments in Fellowship Hall. Many of our Pre K students have been with us for 3 years. We are so proud of all they have accomplished during their time at MMP but we also recognize how much they've grown and how ready they are to start the next step in their education. Congratulations Class of 2014!

The rest of our students wrapped up the school year with pizza parties and ice pops and created beautiful Father's Day gifts. It was a wonderful ending to another successful year at MMP.

I am so proud of all of our students, staff and families and what our little school has come to be. The memories and accomplishments of all involved are so special to me and because of that it makes it even harder to say goodbye. The 2013/2014 school year will be my last year serving as director of the Manahawkin Methodist Preschool. I will forever be grateful for the support from my staff, preschool families and my church family. It has been an honor and a blessing to have worked here for the past 7 years and I know that many more wonderful things are in store for the preschool and all the families it serves.

I wish everyone a healthy and happy summer.

Educationally yours,

Kelly Steinberg

Director

Get Ready for VBS – 2014

July 21 – 25th 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Rosemary Molinaro

Sunday School Superintendent

Howdy, Partners! The week of July 21-25th, VBS is going out west to round up deputies for Jesus. Sheriff Randy will lead the posse each night chasing down the bad guys. His only weapon – The Good Book!

We have a fun week planned for the children with lots of exciting activities. VBS is open to children entering Kindergarten through entering Sixth Grade, and as always, this is a free program. There is lots of room for the older kids to be ranch hands and help each night. We also need adult volunteers and lists of items needed is posted in the Narthex.

Very important this year, all donations we receive from VBS will go towards our commitment to “A Future with Hope – No More Malaria.” We have a goal of \$400.00 and I know we can meet it.

On the last night, Friday, July 25th, we will have our traditional closing celebration. Everyone in our church family is invited and welcomed to join us for this fun night. There's lots of good food and we have two very special surprise guests that all ages will enjoy!

To register on line, please go to <http://ss.manahawkinmethodist.org/vbs-2014-registration-form/>

Please contact me by email at ss@manahawkinmethodist.org or by phone, 609-698-1251, if you are interested in volunteering or need more information.

So gather up the youngins' and saddle up your “bronco” (or whatever car you drive) and head on down to MUM ranch as we ride into the sunset each night with Jesus.



KIDS IN CHURCH

A father took his five-year-old son to several baseball games where the Star Spangled Banner was sung before the start of each game. Then the father and son attended a church service on the Sunday just before Independence Day. The congregation sang the Star Spangled Banner, and after everyone sat down, the little boy yelled “PLAY BALL!” **Happy 4th of July everyone. God Bless America – we need Him more than ever.**

Sunday School Year comes to a close

Submitted by: Rosemary Molinaro,

Sunday School Superintendent

Sunday, June 1st, was our last day of Sunday School for the 2013-2014 school year. It was an exciting morning. We honored our Dads with an early Father's Day blessing by Pastor Choi. Our Third and Fourth Graders received their Bibles and all the children received Attendance Certificates. Those who were involved in either the Christmas Pageant, Easter Pageant or Sunday School Sunday were awarded Participation Certificates. And I am very proud to say that almost every child received one! All the children advanced to the next grade level. And for the grand finale, we unveiled the theme of this summer's VBS program – we're going out west for a round up for Jesus! (Details under VBS)

We had a very active school year. Twenty Nine families were registered, bringing us fifty six children. In our weekly collection, the children donated close to, if not over, \$800.00. Of that money, we donated to the Camden Youth Center, contributed to those who were flooded out and put together Shoe Boxes at Christmas time. We ran a food drive at Thanksgiving for the local food bank, and thanks to very generous donations from our church family, I'm sure we were able to feed a couple of families. This year brought a new presentation of the Christmas Pageant and the addition of an Easter Pageant on Palm Sunday; both of which were attended by over 150 friends and families. All I can say is **PRAISE GOD!**

On behalf of myself, our teachers and the continued success of our Sunday School program to reach out to our children, I wish to thank Pastor Choi, Sarah Choi, our church family and our Sunday School parents for the amazing support and help you have given us this past year. The children came back week after week, glad to be here and so well behaved – they really are such a blessing! I also would like to thank our teachers, Vanessa and Randy Estelow, Jo-Eva Applegate, Leah Scali, Lorraine Hart and Natasha Lownsbury for their hard work and dedication to the children. In addition to their own families and working full-time jobs, they come prepared each week to teach the word of God.

Monthly updates and photos of the school year are posted on our website. Please visit the website and see our faith in action. <http://ss.manahawkinmethodist.org/sunday-school-news/>

We will begin the new school year on Sunday, Sept. 7th with a welcome back coffee hour. Registration for next year is open and the form is also available on our website.

<http://ss.manahawkinmethodist.org/sunday-school-registration-form/>

Until then, have a safe and happy summer. Let's keep each other in our prayers.

In addition, please prayerfully consider being a part of our teaching staff next year. I am in need of teachers and subs. Please contact me at 609-698-1251, or see me at church if you are interested. Thank you.

Actions DO speak louder than words

Submitted by: Rosemary Molinaro, a personal reflection of my faith

Recently I had such a profound awareness of God's presence, that I felt I wanted to share it with you. It amazed me because even though I didn't ask, God answered. And even when we think our thoughts are our own, He knows them.

It started on Sunday morning, when I was getting ready for church. As a typical woman (I guess), I put on a pair of shoes that I knew I shouldn't have worn. They hurt the minute I put them on, but I continued to wear them, and why? Well, they matched the dress! By the time I came home from church, my feet were aching and of course, I blamed the shoes. Couldn't have been my poor decision to wear them. And then God put a thought in my head. It was my cousin Jim. On Valentine's Day, which also happens to be his wedding anniversary, Jim had his leg amputated due to complications from his diabetes. I don't know how I would react to something so drastic, but you have to know Jim. He accepted this as a way to save his life – not change it. Jim has a wonderful outlook and our family knew he would do well. Just a few short months later, he is now walking on his new leg. And then there's me....complaining about shoes that hurt my feet.

In that same week, I had gotten a haircut. It was a bit short and I was feeling self-conscious about how I looked. Well, God wasn't going to let me get away with that one either. In the parking lot of the Wells Fargo Bank, as I was getting out of my car, right next to me a woman was getting out of her car too. We reached the door of the bank at the same time. Me with my short hair....and her with her exposed bald scalp, an obvious side effect of cancer treatment. But there she was, another sign from God of how petty I can be.

Now during this same week, I had come down with a migraine. I have suffered with migraines since I was twelve years old. I was in my third day of this particular one and feeling exhausted from the pain. OK, God, hit me with Your best shot.

Well He did! It was on that day that Pastor Choi sent out an e-mail that Rosie Jones had brain surgery. Hmmm, migraine versus brain surgery! So I did what I have done so many times; I offered up my pain for someone whose pain is greater than mine; this time it was for Rosie that her pain may be lifted, if even for a short time. From one Rose to another, I hope it helped you.

So during one week, God spoke to me three times, without me even asking. I never heard His voice, but as they say "actions speak louder than words." And I heard Him loud and clear! I thank God for the three Angels he sent me that week - amazing Jim, the beautiful woman at the bank and precious Rosie. May God continue to hold them in the palm of His hand; and may God continue to talk to me, even when I think He's not listening! Amen.

Shine-You are the light of the world

Matthew 5/19

This was the theme for this year's **Greater New Jersey Conferences of the United Methodist Church**. Although, the weather in Wildwood, New Jersey, where it was held, was dark and dreary May 29/30; God's light shined brightly inside the convention center. More than 1,500 people gathered together to praise and worship God and be open to what the Holy Spirit was saying about furthering the Kingdom in 2015.

Opening worship was a lively Native American celebration honoring their heritage. By the way, I found out when I got home, Ron and Bobbie Warmbier's grandson gave the opening prayer during worship time. The speakers were all dynamic! Bishop Sally Dick from northern Illinois used the illustration of the mysterious reflected lights that shine off the large waters. We, like them, are to shine and reflect the Holy Spirit within us. Our mission is to shine so others can see Jesus in us as the light of our life.

Pastor Olujimi W. Brown from the Impact church in Atlanta, Georgia, leads a congregation of more than 1500 worshippers each week. He is committed "to doing church differently." He stated "The world and our community does not need a carbon copy church." What they do need is ministries that are willing to reach people in new and creative ways. Easter really happened, he stated, and we need to rise with the power Jesus gave us and be the reflecting light in the unique way. Our Lord will lead our congregation. Your

power of the Holy Spirit allows you to shine in dark places you never thought you could!

Bishop Moses Young Hun Kim, a very important leader and friend to Greater N.J., led us in the Service of Remembrance. Although, it was a sad time remembering our loved ones we lost this year, we must remember they went to glory! He left us with the peace and faith to know that we will see them again.

Major legislation passed by the body includes; a resolution to explore and expand our mission partnerships to Thailand and Nepal; a resolution to come against poverty and the creation of a Strategic Disciple Making Fund to start new congregations and faith communities. The 2015 budget also passed.

Future with Hope has repaired forty-two homes. Another one hundred are scheduled to be completed in 2015. A special offering was taken for the Mission fund which now stands at four million; raised for a "Future with Hope, Imagine No Malaria, and mission work in local churches."

Our own Blair Gould has been appointed to a much larger church, starting in July. One of the highlights included the "Act of Repentance" for Native Americans in our conference. There was also a "smudging cleansing ceremony on the deck." Many of us took part in it. Prayer bundles were given out by our brother and sister American Indians.

Mark Miller and the Festival Choir led us in spectacular musical worship. One of the highlights of the conference was a picnic (although Bishop Schol and John Cardillo, treasurer, might not agree as they volunteered to sit in a dunk tank.) They must of gotten pretty wet as the project made \$3,800.00, for the mission fund. I need to mention that our Sarah Choi was a working volunteer. You know the saying "busy as a bee?" Well, she in a contest, would have won over many busy bees working together!

Our Bishop stated we have not yet been able to find a Christ-like path forward on some current controversial issues. He pledged to lead us in a gift of unity that is deeper than our differences. He challenged us to honor the Jesus in all of us and seek grace, so the world can say, "in the midst of our differences, see how the United Methodists love each other."

A true statement was made "the truth is not easy to preach."

I would like to end with a few lines from a beautiful worship song;

“Will you answer when I call?

Will you let me lead the way?

Will you kiss a leper clean?

Will you admit to what I mean

When I say “You in me and I in you?”

“Arise, shine, for your light has come and the Glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” Isaiah 61:1

For such a time as this one we have to reflect the Light and Glory of the Lord!

So shine-----You are the Light of the World!

Submitted by: Dotti Sylvestri

Knit For Kids

Subject: Thank you for the items we received for the children!

Date: 06/27/14 02:42:13 PM

From: "Stephanie Nestor - US"
<snestor@WorldVision.org>

“Hello Knit for Kids Friend,

Thank you for the beautiful handmade item(s) you have made for children in our country and around the world. We received your wonderful gift and appreciate all the love and effort that went in to making it.

Your items were received and entered into our database in June, 2014.

Our most recent shipments have gone to Albania, El Salvador, Malawi, Rwanda, and Swaziland.

Thank you for supporting the Knit for Kids program!”

Blessings to you,

Knit for Kids

c/o WORLD VISION

210 Overlook Drive

Sewickley, PA 15143

email: knitforkids@worldvision.org

URL: www.knitforkids.org

URL: www.worldvision.org



MUMC Knit for Kids project 2014

Stephanie Nestor

Office Manager. Gifts-in-Kind, Global Distribution Center – Pittsburgh

Find us on Facebook at '[World Vision Pittsburgh](https://www.facebook.com/WorldVisionPittsburgh/)'!

Phone 412.259.6020 : Fax 412.749.1809 :
snestor@worldvision.org

210 Overlook Drive : Sewickley, PA 15143 USA

World Vision | Building a better world for children |
www.worldvision.org

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.



This is the group of women that attended the UMW Annual Picnic at Joyce Trainor's home in Tuckerton on June 10, 2014.

AT THE CARWASH



THE GOD SQUAD



Items of Interest

- VBS July 21 through 25 6pm to 8pm
- Trip to Blue Claws Stadium July 11, 7:05pm call Rich Mueller 609-597-2645. \$10 per person
- Picnic in the Park, Manahawkin Lake Park, First and third Tuesday, July 1, 15, Aug 5, 19. 5:30-8pm
- Missions for July: Canned Meats, Chili or Stew, drop of in Narthex.

Additions or corrections to the Crossword, contact Edna Winans at 609-304-3403 or ewinans@verizon.net