



THE CROSSWORD

Manahawkin United Methodist Church
116 Stafford Avenue
Manahawkin, NJ 08050
www.manahawkinmethodist.org

March/April 2015



He is not here
He is Risen
From the Dead

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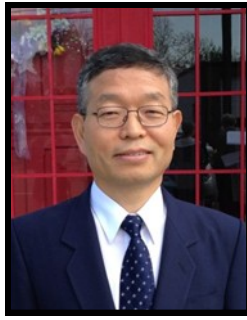
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PASTOR'S CORNER

Pray always and do not give up. –Jesus

Recently I read a heart-warming story on the power of intercessory prayer. Here is a copy of it below—a true story of a man whose first name is Aram. Read on.

“You must be hungry after shoveling so hard! Let me get you a piece of apple pie. Do you like apple pie? You stay right there and let me get you some pie.”



She was an eighty-year-old widow, and I knew it would take at least ten minutes for her to make it into the kitchen, never mind dishing out the pie. I sat at the table, wondering how long she would make me sit before I got my pay and was out of there.

The offering was quintessential New England: light golden brown crust, piping hot apples, and cold milk in a tall glass. I devoured it.

She had barely sat down at the head of the table to enjoy her slice when she noticed my bare plate. “Let me get you another piece!” There was no declining the offer: she was into the kitchen before I could open my mouth. Funny how quickly she could move at times. The pie was good, the milk cold, and I made quick work of her second offering.

But she kept talking and talking. It was the unspoken dread of our neighborhood—getting caught with Mrs. Back. We all have a Mrs. Back in our lives. Even at that young age, I began to reflect, *How could someone be so oblivious to the cues before her—how could she not notice that I wanted out of there?*

About ten years later, on a Monday afternoon, something inside of me said, *You need to tell Mrs. Back.* For on that previous Friday night, at a bachelor party in Harvard Square, I gave myself to Jesus. I still hadn’t told anybody. But somehow I knew: I was supposed to tell Mrs. Back.

It was a lovely spring afternoon in May, and Mrs. Back was hanging out her laundry to dry. I walked up to the fence, “Mrs. Back, do you know what it means to be “born again”?”

She dropped everything and looked at me in sheer surprise and delight. “Why, yes I do.” She had been a pastor’s wife, after all.

“Well, the other night, I was born again.”

She looked at me and said with a firm voice, “You stay right there!” I stood on the driveway, at the fence, watching her hobble up to the back door, up the steps

with her cane.

Ten minutes later she came out from the back door, walked over to me, and handed me the biggest, most delicious piece of chocolate cake I had ever eaten in my life. She smiled and said, “Eat it!” And I devoured that piece of chocolate cake as she stood there and gazed at me. Celebrating with me. Rejoicing for me.

Finally, she spoke. “For the last fifteen years, since you moved in, I have prayed every day for you and for Paul (my friend who lived on the other side of her house)—I prayed every day that you would come to know Jesus.” (Philip Yancey, *Prayer*, pp. 310-311)

Pray every day for your loved ones that they would come to know Jesus. Keep on praying without giving up! Your prayers will be answered and they would eternally appreciate it.

See you at church!

Kyewoon

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Here we are welcoming Spring ~ at least in our hearts! Your Worship Committee braved the elements and met in January. We’re excited about our upcoming Services ~ especially since we welcome Easter on the 5th of April! Some of the Services we’re looking forward to:

- March 15th: *Anniversary Sunday*. We welcome our **212th year** of Ministry! Wow! As our custom, we will add 50 year members to our list of faithful servants. If you are one who will hit this milestone this year, please make sure we have your name by contacting Cheryl, Jody or MarySue. We would like to thank you for your witness and service to the Lord.
- March 29th: *Palm Sunday*. Come shout your Hosanna’s to the Lord! Our Sunday School will also present their Easter Pageant after the early service.
- April 2nd: *Holy/Maundy Thursday*. We will have a Communion/Hand Washing Service 7:00P.M. in our Sanctuary. Quite beautiful!
- April 3rd: *Good Friday*. Our touching/reverent Service will be held 7:00P.M. in our Sanctuary.
- April 5th: *Easter Sunday*! Get your Alleluias ready!! He Is Risen! Risen Indeed! Going to rock the house! Special music is being planned that will leave you speechless!
- April 12th: **ONE SERVICE ONLY! 10:00A.M.** but it’ll be a joy! *Hymn Sing/Communion Sunday*! Get ready to call for your favorite hymn ~ Vel will be ready! If you can, know the page number in our hymnal ~ we can work in more hymns!

- April 19th: *Scholarship Sunday*. We welcome Eileen Mahan as she presents an update on our scholarships and how they help those preparing for continued education.

Once again we thank all those who wonderfully support our Worship Services by your prayers and help by providing coverage as Greeters, Ushers, Acolytes and Readers etc. We hope to welcome many visitors during this busy time ~ “they will know us by our love”! Yes, please help us spread the love and joy of our Lord and Savior ~ after all, we are the can do people of the can do Church! We are family and truly Blessed!

So Spring, here we come! We'll be posting our Services in our Bulletin and we'll have them posted on our web site: www.manahawkinmethodist.org.

Thank you! ++

Jody Endebrock/MarySue Pignato

Worship Co-Chairs

MUSIC NOTES by Vel



The choir is busy preparing music for our special Lenten, Holy Week and Easter Services. New singers are always welcome.

Men WE NEED YOU!

Our rehearsals are every Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM.



Junior Bells practice on Monday afternoon from 4:30 to 5:15 PM, followed by Pizza. We have room for several more ringers – no experience necessary. You need only to have completed first grade. Junior Bells will ring at both services

on March 8 and April 19. There will be no practices on March 9 or April 6th.



Praise Bells (our 4 teenage girls) practice on Monday evening from 5:30 to 6:30.

They will ring on Palm Sunday – March 29, and probably April 12. Older youth with musical experience who are interested in joining this group should speak with me.

Adult Home Group

The Gallagher's have been having an interactive study the first and third Fridays of the month at their home. We are studying the book *Boundaries* by Cloud and Townsend. There have been 7 regular attendees and we have had some great discussions after we watch the DVD and go throughout the study guide questions together. Even if you missed the first few meetings please feel free to join us! Please call Tim or Holly with questions 609-597-5155



THE HOLY SPIRIT RINGERS 2015 SCHEDULE

March Practices: 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th

March Performance: Sunday the 22nd, both services

April Practices: 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th

April Performances: Sunday the 5th (Easter Sunday) **and** Sunday the 26th, both services

May Practices: 7th, 14th, and 21st

May Performance: Sunday the 24th, both services

Interested? Call Joe 609-488-1786 or 609-339-0847



March 2nd is the National Education Association's Read Across America Day and we will throw a birthday party for Dr. Seuss on the 2nd and 3rd! We are busy planning fun Seuss-inspired games like Sneetch Ball, Seuss-a-phone and Cat-Cat-Seuss! Many of our teachers will invite parents and grandparents into the classes to share a favorite Dr. Seuss book as well. Oh the Thinks You Can Think!

We will begin registration for the 2015-2016 school year on Friday March 6th for our current school and church families. We have 88 spots to fill and are trusting in the Lord to fill them all! Please keep us in your prayers that we will continue to be a light in the community that draws families to us.

April will bring us out into the sunshine again as our Science Club students learn to take care of the planet God has given us. Students will be given a section of the Mission Committee's garden to plant vegetables to be donated to local food banks. We will also discuss recycling and will cook in a solar oven.

Everyone is welcome to join us as we have our first table top Scholastic Book Fair the week of April 20th. We are hoping to earn new books for our school library so every purchase helps.

Lisa Mower, Director

PRAYER GROUP

“Speak out for the one who can not speak, for the rights of those who are doomed. Speak out, judge fairly, and defend the rights of oppressed and needy people.”
Proverbs 31, verses 8 and 9

GARDEN COMMITTEE

We recently met in Fellowship Hall to discuss plans for the new garden season. We had nine people attend who gave us input about possible new crops we could plant. These were: potatoes, mesclun, kale, and broccoli. A suggestion was also given to perhaps plant an apple tree.

The soil was tested by the Rutgers Agricultural Extension Service and it was found that we needed very little in the way of added nutrients. Rich Mueller had always bought a load of mushroom soil and at last the garden has good potential without adding much more. Alice and Lou Schovenec have volunteered once again to rototill the soil before planting.

We also decided to keep the working times at the garden on Tuesday evening at 5:00 and Saturday morning at 9:00. Come if you can. Our next meeting will be the last Sunday in March after Coffee Hour at 10:15. All are welcome to attend.

Art and Lovisa Hill

Bowling

We continue to meet at Stafford Lanes for family bowling the last Sunday of each month at 6 pm. Rates are discounted and it is a great time to show off your talents and get to know other parishioners of all ages.

Baptism/New Members

Since Jan 1 we have had 2 babies Baptized and 1 person join the church with more to come in the next month. The army of God is growing. Praise the Lord!

Picnics

Spring is coming and we plan to start up our picnics at A .Paul King Park in June the first and third Tuesday of each month @ 5:30pm. We had great turn outs last year and can't wait for the nice long warm days ahead!

Men's group-

March 21 is the next men's breakfast at the Holiday Inn @ 8:15. Time of sharing and fellowship with other men to promote unity and positive Christian fellowship is our goal

ADDICTION (Thoughts to Live By)

Kenneth Schorr

Addiction defined means habitually given to a practice. Most people when thinking of addiction brings to mind drugs, alcohol, even sex. To many these are the evils of our society today; incurable. We become quick to judge or condemn, showing little compassion. In so doing we fail to look at ourselves in the mirror; in denial to our own addictions such as money, materialism, power and control, gossip, pride and unforgiveness. Yes I include the sins of pride and unforgiveness for they too are a form of addiction; a sickness just like a cancer. As we all know addictions (and sin) left ignored and unchallenged, without help, can and will destroy the individual, and also destroy relationships with family, friends and society. Even more important, destroy our relationship with God.

When talking to a friend about a recent problem that she had, it was troublesome to hear her say, *"I know I should forgive, but; I can forgive almost anything but not this."* It made me think how can anyone with an unforgiving heart go to church and take Communion or even say the Lord's Prayer? Try to justify their unforgiveness? If a Pastor knows someone has an unforgiving heart should they be denied communion? Are we denying the Cross; who Jesus was and why He came?

Jesus came to reconcile us to God the Father, but first we are to reconcile with each other. However a hardened heart fueled by pride and unforgiveness does not want healing.

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant serves as an example of what will happen to someone with a unforgiving, hardened heart. As Jesus states in the parable, *"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."* In other words, repent!

For the person who calls themselves Christian, forgiveness is not an option; it is mandated! It is part of the healing process.

*As far as God is concerned each one of us has run up a monstrous debt of sin, yet God stands ready to forgive us for what we have done. Therefore who are we not to forgive others? **Do we think ourselves better than God?***

Keeping YOU in the loop: Family Promise

Our MUMC has made a promise to help the homeless from our own surrounding communities. Our church family members will be working with one another to provide the homeless with a safe place to sleep as well as food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. My grandmother always said, "Many hands make light work" and this should be our motto. Many church members have already indicated that they would help meet our goals as we open our doors in the spirit of compassionate hospitality for the homeless. We will be asked to host as many as 14 or as few as 2 homeless individuals during our Host Week. The task of hosting for seven nights requires more than one or two volunteers so now I ask you to look at the following list of Assistant Coordinator positions. I am serving as the church Volunteer Coordinator and will be the main contact person for our local Family Promise of Southern Ocean County, Inc. Director, Cheryl Polo.

Here are the volunteer positions:

Host Coordinator – Beth and Bob Schenck – scheduling evening and overnight volunteers – works closely with all other coordinators

Meal Coordinator – oversees meal planning – schedules volunteers for prep and serving

Supply Coordinator – food donations, paper products, clean up – linens

Activities Coordinator – activities or socialization

Donations Coordinator – collects items needed for hosting families

Our first hosting week will be the first week of August. Yes, August seems far away especially as I see piles of snow out my windows but it will be here in a heartbeat. In order for our church family to get the feel of the details for taking on our first "on our own" week we will be offering to assist other local churches for a day or two with their hosting week. We will start off slow by lending a hand with setup or tear down as well as making some meals. We will set up some opportunities to take a few "field trip" visits to learn how churches plan and set up for Family Promise individuals.

In order to begin our own commitments we have some needs that I know you can provide. We will need TWIN size sheets, pillowcases, and comforters/blankets. They do not need to be new, as you refresh your own linen closets,

please remember to donate your new or slightly used twin size linens. We will be providing our Family Promise guests with sleeping quarters and we will need twin size bedding.

Keep on the lookout for signup sheets for lending a hand to help us reach our hospitality goals for the homeless. Also keep in mind that we will be volunteering to assist other local churches meet their Family Promise commitments. Reaching out, lending a hand, and opening our hearts ... this is our commitment to the local Family Promise organization.

Volunteer Coordinator/Host Coordinator,

Beth Schenck

Many hands make light work – please lend a hand!

**SHOPRITE GIFT CARD PROGRAM**

The ShopRite gift card program is going well. This is the program where the church buys gift cards from ShopRite at a 5% discount and then re-sells them to the church members and friends at face value. The cards are then spent like cash, for full value at any ShopRite. Cards come in denominations of \$25.00, \$50.00 and \$100.00. Since starting this program in January, the church has earned \$1,862.50, with approximately 25 families participating.

See Millie Plant, or call 609-597-8026 if you would like to join us in this very easy way of earning money for the church.

MISSIONS**Letter from Saint Steven's Episcopal Church**

Dear Generous Parishioners,

We are so grateful to have Manahawkin United Methodist Church supporting our Community. Your consistent food donations are a big help to those who walk through our doors.

In 2014, we served 1625 families with a total of 6359 people served. I would like to add that our numbers are dropping, but that is just not the case. With your continued support we will be able to continue this important ministry. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Deborah Carr

Parish Administrator and

Food Pantry Coordinator

Letter from Prison Fellowship

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your recent gift to Prison Fellowship. As we begin 2015, I'm grateful for what you helped accomplished for the Kingdom last year, and I am looking forward to what God will do through you in the year ahead.

I've seen what your generosity can do, and I believe God is going to use you to minister His grace in lives that have been shattered by crime and sin. Your sacrifice is helping bring incarcerated man and women, and the children they've left behind, to Christ. In some of the darkest places on earth, you're helping bring the light of God's presence.

But many more prisoners and their families still need the light.

If God has blessed you to be able to give beyond your recent support, please prayerfully consider an additional gift today. Any additional gift you can send will help bring transformation to those who need it desperately.

For His Kingdom,

Jim Lake

President and CEO

P.S. Thank you once more for helping take the Good News to those behind prison walls!

MUMC Resident Poet Norma Paul**TREES**

Is it an Ash?

An Elm?

An Oak?

In every crossword puzzle

There's one three-letter tree.

You need the vertical word

To know for sure which

Fits the horizontal.

Long-time lover of trees

I must confess my ignorance of

Species, whether by bark or

Leaf. But on a chill winter day

I marvel at their outstretched arms

Reaching upward—ever upward—

Bare of blossom

Stripped of greenery,

Silent in their heart-felt awe as

They declare Here I Stand

Rooted in Earth

Pressing toward Heaven.

--Norma Paul

January 17, 2015

MYSTERY**PHOTO**

What can you
tell us about
this photo?

Year??

Location



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Submitted by Rosemary Molinaro

Sunday School Superintendent

So glad January and February are behind us. It has been a tough winter for so many of our Sunday School children and their families. Colds and flu hit hard and we missed seeing a lot of the children since Christmas. As soon as that “bug” gets in the house, it doesn’t like to leave anyone out. We thank God for the gift of wonderful doctors and medications, and of course His healing love, that we are all starting to get back to good health. January and February also brought snow and extreme temperatures, but our children bundled up and came out for class each week.



On Sunday, January 25th, we held our Sunday School Sunday services at 8:30 and 11:00, with a special Coffee Hour in between. As you entered our church, you were greeted by the Kadlubowski Family and the Barry Family. In the Sanctuary, lead by our Senior Acolyte Marina Milia, were our Acolytes, Aiden Kadlubowski, Brandon Turi and Charlie Ray. Our Ushers were Alexa and Brenna Seubert, Mark Kettig, Mason Barry, Brady Stevens and Emmett Welsh. Scripture Readers were Matt Kokai, Pauline McShea, Marcella Ray and Beth Schenck. In attendance were Isabella and Olivia Fisher. I was honored to speak at both services about my journey in faith and how I have experience Jesus in my life. The Sunday School children were all wonderful and made these two services very special. Please stop by our Bulletin Board to see pictures of the children and their families.

Sunday, February 22 was to be our Community Appreciation Sunday, however, we had bad weather that forced us to cancel. We had a wonderful response from community helpers who were going to come in and talk to the children and we hope to reschedule this event at another time.

During the month of March we will be practicing for our Easter Pageant, which will be held on Palm Sunday, March 29th, at 9:45 in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend. The children will be presenting The Stations of the Cross. After the presentation, the children will head outside to collect Easter eggs. All children in our congregation are welcomed to participate. Don't forget your basket!

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 5th.

And that brings us to the beautiful season of Spring! Renewed life in Jesus Christ.

As always, thank you to everyone for making our Sunday School program a welcoming and loving place to be. God bless you all.

THE MIRACLE OF PSALM 91.

As Lenten season starts, I think back to how much I have been blessed through more years than I care to remember! God spoke to my spirit long ago during my "dark times" that He would restore to me "the years the locust had stolen." Joel 2, verse 25. He sure has! One of the greatest blessing is to have Father God reveal the **91st Psalm** to me. This was given to me through a friend when my soldier son was sent to a dangerous place. It is called the "Soldier's Psalm" as there are so many testimonies of protection and miracles happening to soldiers who take this Psalm into battle with them. I want to tell you it became "My Psalm" also. Check it out! It became my "refuge and my fortress" right away (Psalm 91 vs 2). I memorized it and in these very troubling times I say it out loud in the shower every morning; praying is back to our Awesome God and I know there is power in every word!

Because of space, I can only mention a couple of miracles here but there have been many and still continues.

My daughter, as a young adult suffered a chronic health problem which would crop up now and then. Her job sent her out to Chicago to start a new store. She called me one night after arriving to tell me she was having an attack. I told her she had to go to a hospital emergency room. She said she knew that but was calling me so I could pray. I tried calling each member of my prayer group but no one was home! Now in these days I was an overly protective mom who would sleep on the floor next to my kids beds when they were sick and continually check to make sure they were still breathing. All of a sudden an unbelievable peace came over me, I said to myself "What am I doing? I have the 91st Psalm"! I went to my bed and fell asleep. I woke up around 10:30PM and called her. No answer. So I sat in my rocking chair and said "Dear God, next time I call, could she be coming in the door?" Deep in my spirit I heard God say "She is Healed." I said praise you my Lord but you know me and I need to talk to her. At around 11:00PM I phone again and she said "Oh Mom, I'm just coming in the door!" When she got to the hospital the doctors could find no trace of her problem. She was healed and still is!!!

One more short miracle: We were flying to Chicago (I hate flying). When we got near the airport the pilot came on and said, we are going to have to circle around up here for a while as there is too much turbulence to land. I said "Oh dear God would you please help?" WOW, Immediately the pilot comes on and says "the atmosphere has changed and we will land as scheduled." As the saying goes "God Is Good All the Time, All the time God is Good" Amen (Anonymous)

CALENDAR

MARCH		
1-Mar	Worship Service/Communion	8:30 & 11:00am
4-Mar	Quilters	9:30am-3:00pm
5-Mar	Prayer Group	11:00am-12noon
6-Mar	World Day of Prayer	1:00pm-2:00pm
	Adult Home Study Group	7:00pm-9:00pm
8-Mar	Worship Service/Baptism	8:30am & 11:00am
9-Mar	Finance Meeting	7:00pm-8:00pm
10-Mar	United Methodist Women	1:00pm-3:00pm
11-Mar	Quilters	9:30am-3:00pm
12-Mar	Prayer Group	11:00am-12noon
15-Mar	Worship Service/Anniversary	8:30am & 11:00am
18-Mar	Quilters	9:30am-3:00pm
19-Mar	Prayer Group	11:00am-12noon
20-Mar	Adult Home Study Group	7:00pm-9:00pm
21-Mar	Men's Breakfast/Holiday Inn	8:15am
22-Mar	Worship Service	8:30am & 11:00am
25-Mar	Quilters	9:30am-3:00pm
26-Mar	Prayer Group	11:00am-12noon
29-Mar	Worship Service/Palm Sunday	8:30am & 11:00am

APRIL		
1-Apr	Quilters	9:30am-3:00pm
2-Apr	Holy Thursday Service	7:00pm-8:00pm
	Prayer Group	11:00am-12noon
3-Apr	Good Friday Service	7:00pm-8:00pm
	Adult Home Study Group	7:00pm-9:00pm
5-Apr	Worship Service/Easter Sunday	8:30am & 11:00am
8-Apr	Quilters	9:30am-3:00pm
9-Apr	Prayer Group	11:00am-12noon
12-Apr	Worship Service/Hymn Sing	
	Communion	10:00am-11:00am
13-Apr	Finance Meeting	7:00pm-8:00pm
14-Apr	United Methodist Women	1:00pm-3:00pm
15-Apr	Quilters	9:30am-3:00pm
16-Apr	Prayer Group	11:00am-12noon
17-Apr	Adult Home Study Group	7:00pm-9:00pm
19-Apr	Worship Service	8:30am & 11:00am
22-Apr	Quilters	9:30am-3:00pm
23-Apr	Prayer Group	11:00am-12noon
26-Apr	Worship Service	8:30am & 11:00am
29-Apr	Quilters	9:30am-3:00pm
30-Apr	Prayer Group	11:00am-12noon

The following letter of request submitted by Regina Appiah-Mends (member of MUMC)
She will be happy to answer any questions and accept checks for this vital cause.



Appeal for Funds to Support Clean Water Projects for Rural Areas in Central Ghana

The Mfantseman Association of N.J. is a mutual support group, made up of indigenous Fantis from the Central Region of Ghana. The Association however extends its membership to persons from any region of Ghana.

The primary mission of the Association is to make meaningful contributions to our local community in New Jersey. We seek to provide outreach support services for deprived people and communities that reside in Ghana.

Members of the Association deliberated on embarking on a project that will be beneficial to the welfare and well-being of the community and its people. In collaboration with the elders in some of the communities in the regions, the members agreed upon funding the constructions of well water systems in selected areas in the Central Region. The Central Region of Ghana is the third poorest region in Ghana in terms of access to basic human services and prevalence of diseases derived from the absence of a good water supply.

Our commitment to the project is bolstered by our knowledge that the prevalence of serious water borne diseases - like diarrhea and dysentery - in these communities could be reduced by the provision of clean water levels. The World Health Organization reports that over 3.6% of the global disease burden can be prevented simply by improving water supply, sanitation and hygiene. With the recent outbreak of Ebola, we all now know how small the world has become and disease can easily affect other people in other countries.

We have done the feasibility studies and concluded that we will need about \$20,000.00 for the constructions of the well water boreholes. All labor towards the construction will be provided by the local community. There will be no administrative costs or overhead paid out of the funds. All of the funds will be used for the project.

We are kindly asking you to donate generously toward this cause. We believe that it provides an excellent avenue to help our less fortunate families and friends else where in the world. You can give in honor of a loved one living or deceased loved one as well. **Please make check payable to Mfantseman Association of NJ.**

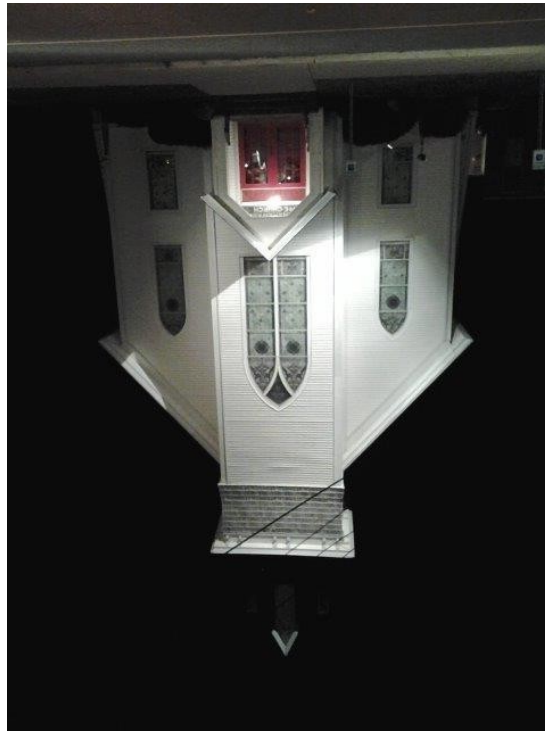
Please note the Association will have a Gala on September 19th 2015 to thank everyone who generously contributed to our fundraising. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Victor Eson-Benjamin
Chairman of the Project Committee

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

Manahawkin United Methodist Church

Located in the hearts of the Jersey Shore



Manahawkin United Methodist Church

116 Stafford Avenue

Manahawkin, NJ 08050



Crossword Newsletter

March/April 2015