



THE CROSSWORD

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

May/June 2015

WELCOME SPRING



MISSED EASTER SERVICES?

Follow the link below to catch up!

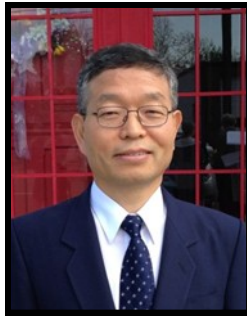
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In this Issue:

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Pastor's Corner

"You Preach Too Long!" said an eight-old girl this past Easter Sunday during our coffee hour. I was quite amused and impressed with her honesty. Instead of getting into all theological reasons why I do so, I asked her how long my sermon should be. "Five minutes," said she, "Three minutes for the message and two minutes for prayer." That made me chuckle with the people seated at the table.



Come to think of it, I can shorten my 20-minute sermon to 3 minutes. After all, don't we love "short and sweet?" *One page sermon, double-spaced, font size 16*---I can do that. In fact, I can even shorten my sermon to three sentences. Even to one sentence. Hmm... perhaps most of you already like the idea so that we may finish the service in 30 minutes and go home early.

Wait. Wait until you read the following story about a white preacher who was a guest preacher in an inner-city congregation entirely black. Like us, he expected about an hour of worship. To his surprise, though, the service lasted two hours and fifteen minutes (I am sure some of you have been there)! The preacher was exhausted, so after the service he asked the host pastor, "Why do black people stay in church so long? Our worship never lasts much over an hour." He smiled. Then he explained, "Unemployment runs nearly 50 percent here. For our youth, the unemployment rate is much higher. That means that, when our people go about during the week, everything they see, everything they hear tells them, 'You are a failure. You are nobody. You are nothing because you do not have a good job, you do not have a fine car, you have no money.' "So I must gather them here, once a week, and get their heads straight. I get them together, here, in the church, and through the hymns, the prayers, the preaching say, "That is a lie. You are somebody. You are royalty! God has bought you with a price and loves you as his Chosen People." "It takes me so long to get them straight because the world perverts them so terribly" (Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon, *Resident Aliens*, pp. 154-155).

So, next time, if you think the service is too long, think of the story above: *God needs time to fix us up*. Let's be honest with ourselves. How much time do we spend each day watching TV (or surfing Internet) and voluntarily filling our minds and hearts with all the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, and the pride in riches (1 John 2:16)? Doesn't the world pump the self-love, the love of money, the love of pleasure into our hearts and minds day in day out? Doesn't the world brain-wash us with a lie that

we are nobody because we have no degrees, no money, no mansion, no Mercedes? The worst of all: we accept and believe the lies without filtering out.

The black pastor in the story is right. The world perverts and corrupts us with lies all week long. So when it messes us up big time with lies about our identity and our purpose in life, don't you think God needs time to get our heads and hearts straight? Once a week, He does so through worship. Personally, one hour of worship is never enough for me. However, I will settle for one hour. Just a 20-minute long sermon, too J. So, folks, next time, when you are sitting in a service that goes over an hour, be glad and patient: God is at work fixing us good---both mind and heart!

See you at church!

Kyewoon

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Jody Endebrock/MarySue Pignato, Co-Chairs
How about our Lenten & Easter Services?? I'm still singing the Hallelujah Chorus! Just awesome! We had 247 join us Easter Sunday! Wonderful! And 104 Easter Plants! Beautiful! Once again, our sincere thank you, to all those who worked behind the scenes and participated in our Services. With Spring and early Summer's sun shining upon us, so Worship warms our hearts and renews our strength. We're pleased to announce the following Sunday Services:

- May 3rd: Communion Sunday/Dedication of the beautiful sweaters ready for "Knit for Kids" ~ so colorful & warm. Come as the sweaters are blessed & lift in Prayer the Children who will wear them.
- May 10th: Mother's Day/Blessing of the Adult Work Group. We honor "all" Moms with a little flower in loving thanks for all they do and are. We also bless and commission our Adult Work Group as they prepare to leave for the Appalachia Service Project.
- May 17th: Tim Gallagher will be leading us in Service and our Holy Spirit Ringers wrap up their "season" ~ please come and thank Tim & our Ringers for all they do & take in the beautiful music/sound of the bells to hold us over till the Fall!
- May 24th: Pentecost/Memorial Day Sunday. We celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit & our Children have a special presentation of the Flags in loving honor and memory of the sacrifices made by many. Vel picked a very special Anthem and we'll hear Testimonials of our returning Adult Work Group.
- May 31st: We welcome Pastor Occhipinti as our Guest Speaker. Always a treat!
- June 7th: Communion Sunday
- June 14th: Confirmation Sunday. Please come and offer

our prayers and support to our young Confirmants ~ such a special time! The Senior Choir formally wraps up their “season” of music ~ again, we offer much thanks for all they do!

- June 21st: Father’s Day/Scholarship Sunday. Come and listen to our Men’s Bell Choir! Under the Direction of Joe DelVecchio, our men have been hard at work for a special presentation ~ we can’t wait! Also, as our Custom, our Scholarship Award Winners will be formally recognized. So proud of all as they continue their on their journey of life and path to success.

Looking ahead we’ll celebrate Communion Sunday and the Fourth of July on Sunday, July 5th! Truly a wonderful way to thank God for our beautiful Country!

Once again we thank all those who wonderfully support our Worship Services by your prayers and **help** by providing coverage as Greeters, Ushers, Acolytes, Readers etc. We hope to welcome many visitors ~ “they will know us by our love!” 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! Please remember, our Services are posted in our bulletin and on our web site: www.manahawkinmethodist.org.

Many thanks and Blessings!

Jody Endebrock/MarySue Pignato
Worship Co-Chairs

A WORSHIP COMMITTEE THANK YOU

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

With the Alleluias and Hallelujahs still ringing in our heads and in our hearts, your Worship Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you for a wonderful, meaningful and beautiful Easter Season! I like to use the phrase “it takes a village” to run Worship ~ for indeed it does ~ and we at MUMC do it well! Thanks to all our Greeters, Ushers, Readers, Communion Servers & Acolytes who always bring their “A” game adding so much to our Services. Thank you to the faithful servants who came day in and day out preparing our Sanctuary for our Lenten & Easter Services; and to those who participated in same ~ adding to the richness of our Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Services. Thank you to our Pastor, Kyewoon Choi, who tirelessly works and prays for us; to our Sunday School Superintendent, Rosemary Molinaro, for the use of her beautiful Stations of the Cross prepared for the SS pageant (wasn’t it great?); a **big** thanks to Arlene Vance & Husband, Bill, for the beautiful Easter wreaths that decorate our front doors & added a spark to our Easter plants; so many to thank... Mary Sue & Nick Pignato, Ruth Farley, Kathleen Tunes, Lucy St. Fleur, Lee

Slater, Jennie Stump, Bob Molinaro, Rob Schmidt and Rich Mueller. A thank you to Edna Winans & Marina Milia for the pictures and video; to our Church Secretary, Cheryl Conti, who types, coordinates, counts, organizes, orders and then constantly re-adjusts everything to make sure things “click”; to our Church Sexton, Lori Nielsen, who always keeps our Sanctuary & Facility spotless & **HOW** could I ever print a thank you without acknowledging our Music Director, Vel Gamble; our Holy Spirit Ringers Director, Joe Del Vecchio ~ and how about our Choirs??? Talk about adding to the richness of Service!! For all their practice time, rehearsals & gift of music... a **HUGE** thank you! Lastly... thank you MUMC for all you do and are! We had 247 join us Easter Sunday & 104 Easter plants delivered this year making our Easter Sunday just pop and we’d be remiss if we didn’t thank Eileen Mahan for coordinating the delivery of those plants tagged for our shut-ins. They will know us by our love! I pray I have not let one single person out of my thank you ~ but then, I’m reminded ~ all to the Glory of God ~ and in service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ ~ without whom, we are nothing. Amen! So thank you, thank you, sweet Church Family! May God continue to bless you and our MUMC!

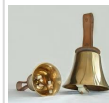
Jody Endebrock
Worship Co-Chair



MUSIC NOTES by Vel

Regular choir practice will continue through May 20th.

After that the Wednesday night practice will concentrate on the music for the Choir Festival in Ocean Grove on July 12th. Anyone interested in participating in that program should contact me ASAP so that I can order music for you. The Festival is at 7:00 PM, with final rehearsal (required) at 2:00 PM in the Great Auditorium. It is always a great experience to sing with the massed choir and beautiful organ in the Auditorium. As usual, new choir members are always welcome – just come out on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM.



Junior Bells and Praise Bells will combine to play for services on Mother’s Day May 10th, and then take a break.

PRAYER GROUP

“The Lord will show His holy power to all the nations. All the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God”
Isaiah 52:10

“Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call on Him while he is near” *Isaiah 55:6*

ManahawkinMethodist PRESCHOOL

We have just wrapped up our first Scholastic table top fair and I am happy to report that it was a tremendous success! While a school our size

can be expected to reach \$950.00 in sales we took in just over \$1800.00 earning our school \$1083.83 in books for our classroom libraries. Thank you to all who came and supported us and be sure to mark your calendars for our next fair coming in February 2016.

Our students are busy watching their new class pets, the caterpillars. Each year the school purchases caterpillars that the students can watch grow, form a chrysalis and eventually emerge as beautiful Painted Lady butterflies. The children love to make predictions and observe God's perfect plan for His creation.

All of the classes are busy preparing gifts for Moms and our Pre K classes will host a Mother's Day Tea Party on Thursday May 7th and Friday May 8th. We are also blessed to have a great group of parents who are putting together a luncheon for Teacher Appreciation Day on Friday May 8th. Hopefully the weather will cooperate as we walk to the Philly Pretzel Factory in mid- May. We have so much fun seeing the walk in refrigerator with bags of flour bigger than the children, the giant mixers and the machine that cuts the dough. Everyone loves trying to shape their own pretzels with the dough they are given. The children will watch the pretzels being dipped in water, sprinkled with salt and finally placed in the large ovens. Of course the best part is the pretzels that are brought back to eat for snack!

We will celebrate the end of our school year in June with field day games for all classes and a graduation ceremony for 38 children on Wednesday June 17th. It has been a great year and I'd like to thank you all for your support.

Lisa Mower, Director

THOUGHTS TO LIVE BY

JOHN DOE

To protect his real identity, I'll call him John Doe. Almost eighty and in poor health, he has been home for several months after having been incarcerated for many years. As a Restorative Justice Advocate it was not uncommon to hear about those returning home from incarceration, looking for help in finding a job, housing, legal or medical help. John's request however shook the very foundation of my faith in the Christian church. His request, could I help him find a church that would accept him; one of the least of these? He had tried three area churches and was told to consider worshiping elsewhere.

Many years ago I read a letter from a married couple in Ohio where the husband had returned home from incarceration. After many months he found a small job, but when he and his wife wanted to go back to their home church, were told to go elsewhere. I could not understand how a church could practice selective forgiveness or salvation, even attendance and call itself Christian. They certainly were not following Jesus' ways. These human beings were still God's children. One of the lost sheep; but where is the shepherd? It's like the church in Laodicea, only 2015.

All of this made me think of two very good friends, both strong believers; however when it came to the church they wanted no part of it, calling it what Jesus called the religious leaders ---- hypocrites! So wrapped up in materialism, legalism, false teaching, lack of compassion, afraid of the financial and political backlash, they were blind to their own sin.

So how can we help this human being (and others like him) who is reaching out? How do we engage him; that he is welcome in a Christ centered church? With today's church reminding me of the story of Humpty Dumpty, flawed and failing, about to fall, are today's churches truly serving Christ or self serving? I have heard so many local area pastors preach from Matthew 25 yet leave out any reference to prisoners; so what are the options?

Let's never forget Jesus died on the cross for those like John Doe as well as our own sins. John's search continues; would he be welcomed here?

By Kenneth Schorr



**KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP:****FAMILY PROMISE (FP)**

We will be serving as the Host Congregation for Family Promise of Southern Ocean County on August 2nd through August 9th. Our church congregation will be providing breakfast,

lunch and dinner for the FP families. In addition to providing meals the FP guest families will be sleeping within our church for seven nights. The task of hosting our FP guest families for seven nights requires many volunteers. Many church members have already indicated that they would help meet our goals. We now have Grab & Go Breakfasts and Hot Suppers covered for the week. THANK YOU!

However, we need more help with the following areas.

- Set Up - help needed for about one to two hours August 2nd 4:00PM
- Tear Down - help needed for about one hour August 9th about 7:00 AM (before 8:30 church service)
- Sleep Over volunteers - (needed 2 congregation members per night)
- Evening meal - set up, serving, and clean-up
- Morning clean-up
- Evening fellowship or activities
- Bedding linen washing – to begin Sunday August 9th (several volunteers needed)
- Donate: Lunch items - bread, lunchmeat/cheese, peanut butter & jelly, individual chip snack bags
- Donate: Beverages - water, milk, coffee, juice sip boxes, soda ...
- Donate: Evening Snacks - cookies, pretzels, brownies ...
- Donate: Twin size bedding

The following Coordinator positions have been filled.

Marian Assur has volunteered to be - Supply Coordinator. She will handle supplies and paper products.

Pauline McShea has volunteered to be - Activities Coordinator. She will organize activities or evening fellowship for our Family Promise guests.

Beth and Bob Schenck - Host Coordinator – will be working closely with all coordinators and oversee scheduling and overnight volunteers.

There is one more very important Coordinator position that needs to be filled.

- Meal Coordinator – oversees meal planning: daily evening meal choice, lunch supplies, & breakfast selections

Donations are needed. We will need TWIN size sheets, pillowcases, and comforters/blankets. New or gently used twin size bedding will be welcomed.

THANK YOU for lending a hand to help us reach our hospitality goals for the homeless. Reaching out, lending a hand, and opening our hearts ... this is our commitment to the local Family Promise organization. If you have any questions or want to donate or help please email me at kf2bq@comcast.net or call my home phone number 609-296-3000.

Volunteer Coordinator/Host Coordinator,

Beth Schenck

Many hands make light work – please lend a hand!

E-MAIL PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor Choi,

We would like to thank YOU and ALL responsible for the E-mail prayer requests that are disseminated by the Church. We dislike Junk Mail as much as anyone but getting requests for Prayers for our Church members or their family or friends could and should never be Junk Mail, but an opportunity for us to pray for, or write a note of support for, or send an e-mail note to, or call and give support to those Church brothers and sisters in Christ. By doing these things we also have the opportunity to fulfill our pledge to support our Church by our prayers, presence and service.

We have been forced to travel extensively over the past year or so; these e-mail prayer requests have helped us to stay in contact with what is happening to our Church Family in Manahawkin and to help us to support them when we can.

Our Church family is most important next to our blood Family and we have been the recipients of numerous prayers, visits, calls, and best wishes which leave us with the knowledge of the love given by our Church family.

We wish there was a way for the non-computer people of the Church to get these messages; but do not have the capability to do this?

We hope all members can also experience God love and support provided by this program and receive the wonderful rewards of being involved in it.

God Bless,

Louise and Rick Jones

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.

EXPENDABLE PROPERTY

This is third and final article on the different types of property that we utilize at the Manahawkin United Methodist Church. This article will discuss expendable property. Expendable property is property that is consumed in use, or loses its identity in use and includes; supplies consumed in the maintenance of the church to include oil, paint, fuel, and cleaning materials; office supplies to include paper, pens, pencils, crayons, scotch tape, paper clips, and file folders. Other items include light bulbs, candles, paper towels, toilet paper, and hand soap. How did you do? Did you get some of these items? Are you surprised at what expendable items are?

Over the past several months we have discussed real property, church property, church equipment, and now expendable property. My hope is that you have gained a better understanding and appreciation for all the things that make up our church.

In my first article on real property I substituted the word facility with the word church. In conclusion I will now substitute the word church with the word home. As you think back on all the types of property and their importance consider how relevant they are to you and your home. As a home owner you have many items of each type of property to purchase, maintain and care for.

Your Board of Trustees is here to ensure the operation, growth and expansion of our church's mission and outreach to the community continues. As your Board of Trustees we ask for your continued support through your time, talents, and services. With your help we can continue to preserve the past and plan for the future of our church.

Roy George, President

Board of Trustees

MUMC Resident Poet Norma Paul**ELEGY**

Offer a prayer of goodbye
 For one dying friend
 This sweet spring of our fleeting life.
 Remember days spent like coins
 Trickling through our fingers
 After each sad lament.
 Keep vanishing blessings
 Close to memory's center.
 Call them to the surface
 Of a listless afternoon.
 Draw them close. Hold them tight.
 Never let go.

Norma Paul

March 23, 2015

Kids in Church - (this is only for a chuckle; it did not happen).

The Sunday School children stopped by Fellowship Hall one Sunday to grab something to eat.

There was a dish of apples on the table with a note that read "Please take only one, God is watching."

Further along on the other end of the table was a large plate of chocolate chip cookies, also with a note, but from one of the children. It read, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples!"

Now hold that smile for the rest of the day!





THOUGHTS AND THINGS

For Lovely things
I hear and see,
and happy thoughts
that come to me,
Thank you, God, our Father
Amen

E. McE. Shields



Submitted by: Louise Lovering Jones
Lay Speaker/Servant



GO WEST, JELLY BEAN, GO WEST

The following saga is made possible because of the Love of God shining through two of our own youngest evangelists Alexa . And Brenna. I don't think I have to give a description of them as I would say most of our Church family has had their day made brighter by these twin sisters.

It all started one day at Church; one of them (I still can't tell them apart!) came up to me and gave me a black jelly bean. I said "Do you know what? My son Chuck loves black jelly beans and is always trying to get me to try them. I keep saying no. I do not like black jelly beans. However for you I'll eat it today. She waited while I ate it. I then said you know, it's not really bad at all! I can't wait to tell my son. She gave me one of those beautiful smile they both have.

A little while later, her sister came and gave me two black jelly beans and said "One is for you and the other one is for your son." I said , "Oh my, my son lives in Texas!" Her little face showed disappointment so I told her "You know what? I am going to send this jelly bean to him.

Chuck was completely overwhelmed with their loving actions. He sent a note to them telling them he tried for a long time to get me to try black jelly beans. They are his favorites. Since then, as black jelly beans continue to fly to Texas a friendship has formed between the two families. Family pictures have been emailed back and forth, Texas princess T-Shirts sent to the girls. As of this writing black jelly beans are in the air on their way to Texas once again. This time, one of the fantastic two put in the bag a jelly bunny and said to me "This is my last one, but I want you to have it." Jesus said "Whosoever becomes like a little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.(Matthew 18:4) If only the world would listen.

CALENDAR

May Calendar

Communion: Sunday, May 3, both services

Confirmation Class: Sunday, 3 – 4:30 P.M. (except May 10, Mother's Day)

Trustees Meeting: Saturday, May 9, 9 A.M.

Worship Hours: All Sundays Two Services

Appalachian Service Project Commissioning Service: Sunday, May 10 at both services

Appalachian Service Project Trip: May 14-17

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, May 16, 8:15 A.M. @ Holiday Inn Restaurant

Guest Speaker (Tim Gallagher): Sunday, May 17, both services

Appalachian Service Presentation: Sunday, May 24, both services

Guest Speaker (Rev. James Occhipinti): Sunday, May 31, both services

Shoprite Gift Cards: Sunday, May 10

Church Council: Monday, May 18, 7 P.M.

Preschool Board Meeting: May 19, 7 P.M.

Annual Conference: May 28-May 30 in Wildwood, NJ

Prayer Group: every Thursday, 11 A.M.

Choir practice: every Wednesday, 7 P.M.

Holy Spirit Ringers: every Thursday, 7 P.M.

Pastor's Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 9:30-11:30 A.M. except May 14 and 28.

Pastor's day-off: Fridays

Secretary Hours: Monday and Wednesday—9 A.M. to 12 Noon. Thursday 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Events for June 2015

Two Services on all Sundays

Communion Sunday, June 7

Finance Meeting, Monday, June 8, 7 P.M.

Shoprite Gift Cards, Sunday, June 14

Confirmation Sunday, June 14, both services

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, June 20, 8:15 A.M. @ Holiday Inn Restaurant

Father's Day: Sunday, June 21

Choir Rehearsal: every Wednesday 7 P.M. until ????

Holy Spirit Ringers: every Thursday 7 P.M. until????

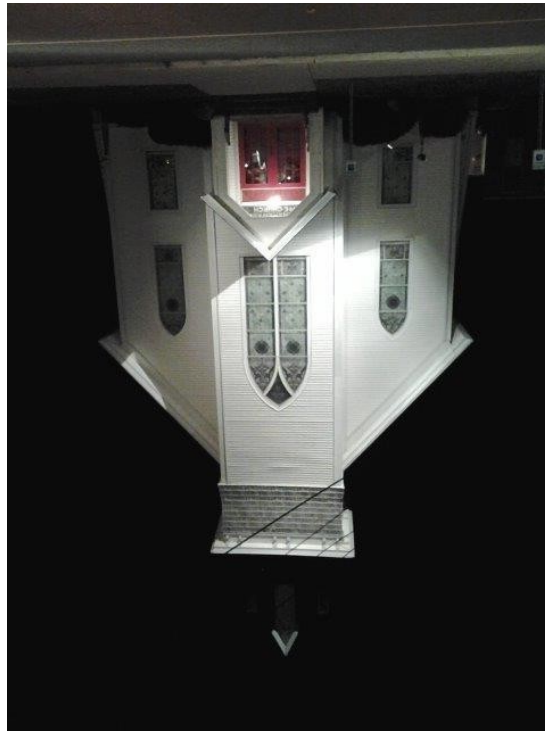
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Additions or corrections to the Crossword, contact Edna Winans at 609-304-3403 or ewinans@verizon.net
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Manahawkin, NJ 08050



Crossword Newsletter

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