



THE CROSSWORD

Manahawkin United Methodist Church
116 Stafford Avenue
Manahawkin, NJ 08050 (609-597-7666)
www.manahawkinmethodist.org

March/April 2017

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

2017 - The Year of Jubilee



In this Issue:

- **Pastor's Corner**
- **Thoughts to live by**
- **Family Promise**
- **Sunday School News**

PASTOR'S CORNER**2017: The Year of Jubilee**

"So we will be with the Lord forever" (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

A friend of mine, a Methodist minister, once shared his shocking experience with me. He was just appointed to a church. On his first Sunday, after service, a member approached and quietly handed him a note that read: *Pastor, please do **NOT** preach on the following three things: sin, money, and death.*

I would like to believe that it was an isolated case among the Methodists. However, I cannot but think of the sad reality within the church. That is, some of us simply prefer not to talk or hear about those "uncomfortable" subjects. I wonder, though, if it is wise or even beneficial for us not to talk about those subjects. Especially, the subject of death.

Humanly speaking, none of us wants to think about death until we face it. Perhaps we are in love too much with this world or too keenly aware of the pain of leaving our loved ones behind us. However, as I think of our Lord Jesus, especially His words and attitude toward this subject, I see a whole different approach on this matter. Jesus shows no slightest hint of reluctance whenever He spoke about His own suffering, death, and resurrection. Didn't He also endure the cross for the sake of the joy that was set before Him? (Hebrews 12:2). Indeed, the same Christ expects His followers to take up the same attitude and even look forward to what's awaiting us after physical death.

Once I watched a program on PBS where a group of distinguished professionals discussed the issue of death. I appreciated the utmost honesty of one man on the panel, an agnostic, as he acknowledged that he was afraid of dying because he knew nothing about life after death. However, we are different. We have no such fear.

Opening the door to Heaven for us through His own death and resurrection, our Lord Jesus Christ grants us the hope of our own resurrection: our physical death is not final but the beginning of another chapter called 'eternal life' in the presence of God. We have hope to be reunited with our loved ones in Christ in Heaven.

As we celebrate Easter once again, let us rejoice in Christ's resurrection. Furthermore, let us encourage one another with a renewed hope and assurance of our own resurrection that we will be together forever with our Lord Jesus and our loved ones who died in the Lord.

Have a blessed Easter in Jesus!!!

Kyewoon

**MUSIC NOTES by Vel**

It is with sadness that we must announce the Ann Spratt is no longer able to play the piano for us for Sunday morning worship services. We wish her well and thank her profusely and sincerely for her many many years of faithful service to our church.

If you play or know of anyone who plays the piano and would be willing to accompany our hymns on Sunday morning, either at one or both services, or on an occasional basis please let me know.

The choir is working in conjunction with the Youth Group to present the dramatic and powerful work by Ruth Elaine Schram, "His Living Last Words". In this work, Ruth Elaine Schram imagines the responses of other witnesses at Calvary, creating short dramatic monologues for the contemptuous soldier, the crucified thief's sympathetic sister, the scornful priest, the anguished shepherd, the grieving mother of Christ and the heartbroken disciple searching for answers. Christ's words from the cross are beautifully repeated by the music of the choir.

The service will begin at 7:00 PM on Good Friday with a brief opening and conclude with the Cantata. Please come and worship with us. I can assure you, it will make your Easter more meaningful.

JUNIOR BELLS

The Junior Bells meet every Monday. This is a good time for any child who would like to join the bell Choir to begin. The only requirement is that they be in second grade or better, and are able to commit to practice every Monday evening from 5:30-6:30 pm.

If your child is interested in ringing with us, please contact Vel at 723-915-0995 or 732-961-1168. They will be ringing for Palm Sunday on April 9th, and are asked to commit through that date.

Help Wanted

**Greeters,
Ushers**



Candle Lighters



Readers

Sign up sheets in Narthex

KNITTERS/CROCHETERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

Our group meets from 3:00-4:00 pm every Wednesday afternoon to knit and fellowship. However, you do not need to attend our group in order to contribute hand made items to our project of knitting for Kids. If you don't know how to knit, we'll be happy to teach you. We make items as small as caps for newborns to size 14 sweaters and blankets, that are distributed by World Vision's Knit for Kids program.

"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. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender."

They also have a new program by which you can give your handmade items directly to a special child whom you can know and communicate with.

Please consider joining us.

**Attention all "QUILTERS"**

We meet every Wednesday in Fellowship Hall from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30.

JUST AS I DECIDED

Just as I decided the Mimosa would have to go--
its wild untamed branches flailing this way and that--
birds suddenly reappeared to claim their hold
before a solitary bud could be detected.

What do they know of impending nourishment,
of beauty, of sustenance promised in the midst of
February's grey surround?

We who are so ready to fold into our
self-absorbed bitterness in the long wait for
winter's final slough

can merely marvel at their inborn faith,
strive to stretch thought, stretch sleep-worn sinew
to claim it as our own.

--Norma Paul

GIFT OF LIFE

(Thoughts to live by)

Kenneth Schorr

Donating blood is one of the easiest and most rewarding things a person can do and I would encourage anyone who can, to do so as often as possible. This simple act of giving of yourself, expecting nothing in return, helping someone in need, perhaps giving them the gift of life is what being a Christian is in part, all about. I have never heard of anyone refusing this gift of life. Why would you not want to live?

When Jesus went to the Cross and as we read in Ephesians 1:7, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace," we were being given a second chance, the gift of eternal life if you will. In his commentary, Matthew Henry writes, "No remission without redemption. The guilt and stain of sin could be no otherwise removed than by the blood of Jesus. All our spiritual blessings flow down to us in that stream. It is according to the riches of God's grace." How could anyone choose not to receive this gift of life? Sadly, there are many.

How many really understand who Jesus was, why He came, or what He stood for? How many understand that without the Cross and resurrection, what hope is there for the future? The Cross represents God's love for us, His desire for us to be reconciled, to have a relationship with Him. There is a theory called the Ransom Theory which basically states that we are enslaved to sin and Jesus Christ set us free; He paid the price. The Cross is the basis of Christian faith and forgiveness! Why then would anyone choose to deny Jesus and the Cross; the gift of life that can be ours? Perhaps you feel your sin is so great, that God would not forgive and certainly not forget (read Jeremiah 31:34 and Psalm 103:12). Did not Jesus forgive the prisoner on the cross next to Him? My wife and I know of a woman who thought that. Could it be people feel that way because they will not forgive nor choose not to remember? Could it be people who are unforgiving are incapable of accepting God's forgiveness? Have you forgiven yourself? You cannot change the past but by accepting Jesus as Lord of your life, that He shed His blood for the remission of your sins, reconciling with God, you can have a new life! The gift of life is yours; God's love, mercy and grace is yours! I encourage you to ask Jesus into your life today; don't wait until it's too late!



SHOPRITE GIFT CARD PROGRAM

This is the program we have with Shop-Rite, where the Church buys gift cards at a 5% discount and then resells them to the congregation and friends for face value. The cards never expire and can be used at any Shop-Rite. They come in denominations of \$100.00, \$50.00 and \$25.00. Orders are taken on the first Sunday of each month and given to the purchasers on the second Sunday. We usually have extra cards if you forget to order on the first Sunday and would like to help with this easy way of adding to our Church income.

Please make sure your checks are payable to MUMC with Shop Rite in the memo. You only pay for the cards when you receive them.

See Lovisa Hill at the 8:30 service or Millie Plant at 11:00 if you would like to try this easy way of paying for your groceries.



Family Promise August 13th through August 20th

Are you “standing at the ready” like little Ava?

Believe it or not our Family Promise Hosting week will be here before you know it! How can our church be successful in meeting our FP hospitality goals for the homeless in 2017? Let's all try to learn from the example of our little Ava one of our youngest Sunday school students. Ava always loves to pitch in and help. She is “standing at the ready” to help ... How about you? ... Because believe it or not ... it's almost time to set the table and make the beds!



How will you help out this August?

Will you volunteer to be a sleepover host, make some beds, wash some bed linens, cook a meal, donate breakfast or lunch items, serve as kitchen clean-up, or join in for an evening of playing games with our FP guests?

There are many ways you can lend a hand.

Please think about how you will be “standing at the ready” to help just like our sweet little Ava the ultimate FP helper!!



To get involved with our FP mission, please reach out to :

Beth Schenck (609) 296-3000 kf2bq@comcast.net ,
 Pauline McShea (609) 296-0346
Mcshea.oceanmist@gmail.com ,
 Angela Lowe (609) 713-9881 angela@comprotech.com
 or give your name and contact information to our church secretary
 Cheryl Conti (609) 597-7666
admin@manahawkinmethodist.org .

Submitted by Beth Schenck



LOADS OF LOVE (Free Laundromat Outreach Ministry)

Our District Superintendent Gina Hendrickson asked me to write about the outreach ministry that Manahawkin UMC launched last April. It is called, “LOADS OF LOVE.”

Here's a little background for how we started it: Rev. Hosuk Chung (Pemberton UMC) once told me about his church's ministry called “LOADS OF LOVE.” It is a once-a-month ministry for the needy families in his community. That intrigued me, so after one field trip to Pemberton and orientation meeting led by Rev. Chung, three months later, Manahawkin UMC started one too.

For the first three months, it was slow, because it wasn't advertised long enough in local newspapers. However, through word of mouth and continuous advertising in the

newspaper and radio, people began to hear about our ministry. It's been 10 months since, and the peak was last December when people lined up to use our service so much so that we ran out of all the coins we had and had to dig into our own pockets with joy.

The idea is very simple. Once a month, one night for two hours, using a coin-operating laundromat (permission granted by the owner beforehand), we offer a free use of the washer and dryer. Everything is free: coins, detergent packets, and fabric softener sheets. At our own small table, we also offer prayer request cards and information on church services. The best part is that we have a captive audience for Jesus! We lend our ears to anyone who would like to talk.

This past January, several families used our service in great appreciation; three women befriended us and I prayed for one of them. Three days later, on Sunday, all three attended our services. What a joy to have them with us! They said, "We will come back!" Praise the Lord!

The benefit of this ministry is this: it's a great tool to reach out to the unchurched. This also excites church members. One of the members told me that a long time ago, she and her family were homeless and she knows how much it means to have a church that helps them in whatever way.

As far as funds go, the Lord always provides. In the past eight months, we never ran out of money.

As of today, this ministry is being offered by three UMCs in NJ: Pemberton, Teaneck, and Manahawkin. And, a couple of colleagues in my PaCE group are seriously considering it too. I hope this story will intrigue and encourage all my colleagues in the Northern Shore District to pray about it and start one in their communities. If Jesus can use Manahawkin UMC, He can use your church, too!

Written by Kyewoon Choi

MISSIONS:

A very special thank you to Art & Lovisa Hill for their dedication and devotion to church missions these past few years. With the prayers and support of the congregation, the Estelows (Don & Janet) will continue to serve as their replacement for Missions.

MISSIONS MEETING: Sunday, March 12th, between services, in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss **Garden, Loads of Love, Family Promise and Mission work project trips.**

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with these missions are invited to join us.

GARDEN: (Art & Lovisa Hill coordinators) It is almost Spring and the garden is getting ready. Rich Mueller is getting the new topsoil and the Schovanecs will rototill the garden for us. **Saturday, April 22nd, Earth Day, at 9:00 AM** we will begin planting. Anyone interested in helping is welcome..

MISSION WORK PROJECT: (Don & Janet Estelow coordinators) Looking into dates for the Appalachia Service

Reminder: UNITED METHODIST WOMEN TALENT SHOW

At the Mother-Daughter dinner to be held Monday, May 1, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., the United Methodist Women will be looking forward to enjoying various talents of our church members, both child and adult. We know our church family includes more than a few performers of voice and instruments, as well as accomplished dancers. We hope you will volunteer to appear on the Fellowship Hall stage with five minutes of the talent that you and/or your family would like to share. Please contact the UMW Secretary, Norma Paul, 609-698-8366, to let us know you will participate, then plan to join us for dinner.

Project Trip to West Virginia for a May/June time frame.

Loads of Love: (Edna Winans coordinator)

Hope you join us with our busy Spring!

Don and Janet Estelow



New Membership Class:

Two identical classes will be offered to those who wish to join MUMC as member: Sunday, March 19 and 26 (10:00 – 10:40 a.m.) at Pastor's office. Potential members are required to attend **only one of the two classes** and will be received into MUMC on Sunday, April 2, at services of their choice. For any questions, please speak to Pastor Choi.



The Sunday School has been very busy during this fall/winter season! See below to learn what we have been up to and what excitement still lies ahead! We thank God for giving us so many opportunities to come together and spend time with each other. Thank you to all the families who participate and for all the teachers and volunteers who make each event possible! We are truly blessed!

PAST EVENTS:

Trunk or Treat: Lots of fun was had by all as we collected candy and went on a hay ride!



Veteran's Day Flag Ceremony: The children participated in a Veteran's Day Flag Ceremony to honor those who have served and to thank them for their personal sacrifices.

Service Project at Manahawkin Nursing and Rehab: The Sunday School went to the facility to meet with residents and patients and to make Thanksgiving crafts for them to keep.



Family Fellowship Event: Christmas Caroling and Chili

Supper: Families and their children came together to join in on the Christmas caroling route and then had a chili supper afterwards.

Christmas Party and Christmas Eve Pageant



"God is Love" Valentine's Day event: The children had a lesson about God's love and a mini party where they completed posters and had cupcakes!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

And we aren't slowing down yet! See our upcoming events below.

Saturday, March 25 at 4:00-6:00pm-

Family Fellowship Event: Family Game Night!



Sunday, April 9 at 9:45am- Easter Pageant and Egg Hunt

Thank you so much and we look forward to sharing in all these special upcoming events with the children, their families, and our church family!

We continue to ask our church community to help us grow our Sunday School membership by spreading the word about our program and events, reaching out to those in the surrounding communities, and passing on an invitation to children whom you know of who may be interested to join our program!! All welcome ages 4+ on up!! Thank you! Any questions can be directed to Marissa Barry, Sunday School Superintendent, SundaySchoolMUMC@gmail.com Proverbs 22:6- Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Submitted by Marissa Barry

Sunday School Superintendent

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Humor is a proof of faith

Charles M. Schultz

Make it possible for everyone to attend church next Sunday, we are going to have a special "No Excuse Sunday". Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say, "Sunday is my only day to sleep in." There will be a special section with lounge chairs for those that feel our pews are too hard. Eye drops will be available for those with tired eyes from watching TV late Saturday night. We will have steel helmets for those who say, "The roof would cave in if I ever came to church". Blankets will be furnished for those who think the church is too cold and fans for those who say it is too hot.

Score cards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present. Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can't go to church and cook dinner, too. We will distribute "Stamp Out Stewardship" buttons for those who feel that the church is always asking for money.

One section will be devoted to trees and grass for those who like to seek God in nature. Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday. The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who have never seen church without them. We will provide hearing aids for those who can't hear the preacher, and cotton for those who can.

ManahawkinMethodist
PRESCHOOL



We will March into National Literacy Month with Dr. Seuss birthday celebrations, a Scholastic Book Fair, and an after school Book Club. Parents have gotten involved in the fun too by reading to the classes and volunteering at the fair. It is such an exciting time at school for our little learners!

We have enjoyed such nice weather and look forward to some of our typical spring projects such as gardening, watching caterpillars become butterflies and digging up worms on the playground! We hope to make some solar oven s'mores again and other fun outdoor classroom activities in April.

Registration began on February 27th and again we are trusting in the Lord to fill the school with children eager to learn about God's great love for them. Please continue to pray for His best for us!

Lisa Mower

Director

UMC MULTI FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL

116 Stafford Ave

Manahawkin, NJ 08050

INVITATION

Saturday April 22, 2017 at 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Manahawkin UMC Fellowship Hall

Food/drink/dessert sign up sheet (turned in before 4/22/17)

FEATURING

Pot Luck Supper

Prayer for the food Rev. Kyewoon Choi

Master of Ceremonies Rev. James Occhipinti

Live music guests (Praise Type)

Bible Trivia Games Rev. Barry Steinmetz

Children ages 5 to 17

Adult 18 to ????

Prizes for correct answers

For more information call

Barry Steinmetz Mentoring Program

732-288-7723

or email bsteinmetz@co.ocean.nj.u5**SIGNUP SHEET****Manahawkin United Methodist**

March 2017 Calendar

Worship Hours: Two Services 8:30 and 11 A.M.
 Joint Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday, March 1, 7 P.M. @ West Creek UMC
 Communion: Sunday, March 5, both services
 Bible Appreciation Luncheon, Saturday, March 4, 11:30-1:30 P.M. @ Humphries
 Men's Breakfast: Saturday, March 18, 8:15 A.M. @ Horizon Diner
 Shoprite Gift Cards: Sunday, March 12
 Daylight Saving Time starts on Sunday, March 12
 Staff Meeting, Monday, March 13, 11 A.M.
 UMW Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 1 P.M.
 Trustees Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 7 P.M.
 New Membership Classes: Sunday, March 19 and 26, 10:00 – 10:40 A.M. at Pastor's office
 Church Council: Monday, March 20, 7 P.M.
 Sunday School family Game Night, March 25th, 4:00 to 6:00 P.M.
 Baptism, Sunday, March 26, 11 A.M.
 Loads of Love, Thursday, March 30, 6 – 8 P.M.
 Choir Practice: every Wednesday, 7 P.M.
 Bell Choir Practice: every Thursday, 7 P.M.
 Quilters: every Wednesday, 9:30 A.M.
 Prayer Group: every Thursday, 11 A.M.
 Youth Group: every Monday, 6:30 P.M.
 Pastor's Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 9:30-11:30 A.M.
 Secretary Hours: Monday and Wednesday—9 A.M. to 12 Noon. Thursday 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

April 2017 Calendar

Worship Hours on Sunday: Two Services 8:30 and 11 A.M.
 Communion: Sunday, April 2, both services
 New Members Received: Sunday, April 2, at both services
 Staff Meeting, Monday, April 3, 11 A.M.
 Sunday School Pageant and Egg Hunt, April 9th, 9:45 A.M.
 Shoprite Gift Cards: Sunday, April 9
 Palm Sunday, April 9, Two Services, 8:30 and 11 A.M.
 UMW Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 1 P.M.
 Joint Maundy Thursday Service, April 13, 7 P.M. @ Kynett UMC
 Joint Good Friday Service and **Cantata**: Friday, April 14, 7 P.M. @ Manahawkin UMC
Easter Sunday, April 16, Two Services 8:30 and 11 A.M.
 Trustees Meeting: Tuesday, April 18, 7 P.M.
 Fellowship Night, Saturday, April 22, 5 – 8 P.M. @ Fellowship Hall
 Scholarship Sunday, April 23, at both services
 Baptism, Sunday, April 23, at 11 A.M. service
 Loads of Love: Thursday, April 27, 6 – 8 P.M. @Mega Wash in Manahawkin
 Men's Breakfast: TBA
 Choir Practice: every Wednesday, 7 P.M.
 Bell Choir Practice: every Thursday, 7 P.M.
 Quilters: every Wednesday, 9:30 A.M.
 Prayer Group: every Thursday, 11 A.M.
 Youth Group: every Monday, 6:30 P.M.
 Pastor's Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 9:30-11:30 A.M.
 Secretary Hours: Monday and Wednesday—9 A.M. to 12 Noon. Thursday 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

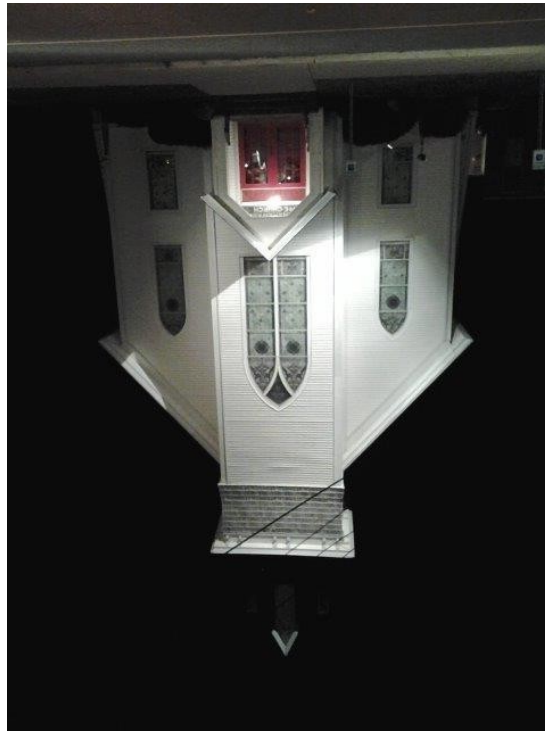
Additions or corrections to the Crossword:

Contact Edna Winans at 609-304-3403

ewinans@verizon.net

Manahawkin United Methodist Church

Located in the hearts of the Jersey Shore



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116 Stafford Avenue

Manahawkin, NJ 08050



Crossword Newsletter

MARCH/APRIL 2017