

First United Methodist Church Newsletter



Issue for November 2009

Deadline for Next Issue is November 15

*My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit
and become my disciples. (John 15:8)*

Prayer—Building Up the Church!

From
the
Pastor

Annual meetings with our church members, leaders, pastor and District Superintendent are concerned with much more than approving budgets, receiving reports, and electing officers. First and foremost they are about the spiritual life of the church. Worship, therefore, is first on the agenda at the annual meetings of discipleship congregations (From *Power Surge*, p.148, Michael Foss). And discipleship is what we are all about. Our Annual Report is a powerful testimony to what God is doing in and through our faith community. It is a testimony to all the ways that we are engaged in the disciple-making process of inviting people to Jesus Christ, nurturing disciples, and sending persons forth in mission and ministry.

We began the year with a sermon series, and small group studies, on Bishop Robert Schnase's book, *Cultivating Fruitfulness*. His five practices that capture the core ministries in a congregation, make a great "barometer" for measuring how well we are

currently "cultivating fruitfulness" (or "Making Disciples" which is our primary task as the church). As you may recall, the five practices are: "Radical Hospitality," "Passionate Worship," "Intentional Faith Development," "Risk Taking Mission and Service," and "Extravagant Generosity."

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 a.m.

Chapel Communion
Service

10:00 a.m.

Church School
Worship Service

These areas formed the structure for my report that you will find in our booklet. As I reflected on where we are as a church in terms of “cultivating fruitfulness,” I found myself teasing out the many strengths that we have as a congregation. In fact I discovered, for the most part, that our strengths were far too numerous to list entirely and, therefore, named only one or two in each case that illustrated Schnase’s criteria.

At FUMC we bear much fruit.

We offer the absolute utmost of ourselves—our creativity, and our abilities to offer the gracious invitation and welcome of Christ to others. That’s what Schnase means by “*Radical Hospitality*.” One of the biggest ways we do that is through our children and youth ministries. When you read the Youth Report in our booklet, you will be updated regarding our new Youth Council that is comprised of 5 youth and several adults, and is off to a great start this fall. We are looking forward to an eventful and exciting year as our children’s ministries and new youth program have been successfully launched.

Each time we come together in worship, people come to seek to connect with God, to allow God’s Word to shape them, and offer their response of faith. That’s what Schnase refers to as “*Passionate Worship*.” It is evident in so many ways as lives are lived out through a faith community that is caring, loving and supportive through selfless giving wherever there is a need.

The third “measure” is the practice of “Intentional Faith Development.” This, according to Schnase, refers to all the ministries that help us grow in faith outside of weekly worship—those places where we learn among other Christians, through our: church school, Bible study groups, ChristCare groups, UMW, UMM, Confirmation Class, Stephen Ministers, VBS, Totally Thursday, our choirs and church band, youth groups, Christian Rock Concert, and other various committees and outreach programs to the community (SCIHN, Manna House, COP, Habitat for Humanity). All these enable us to learn and grow in our faith and cultivate our love for God.

When it comes to “Risk-Taking Mission and Service,” it occurs to

me that we excel in our efforts at making a positive difference in the lives of others for the purposes of Christ, whether or not they will ever become part of the community of faith. In addition to our efforts to reach out through SCIHN, Manna House, COP, Habitat for Humanity, and Sussex County Food Locker, there are other groups: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, English as a Second Language groups, Literacy Volunteers program, Tender Heart Day Care, Head Start, Early Head Start. Also, our other outreach projects such as: backpacks for 36 local school children in need, missions projects in Ghana and Guatemala—and others that I may be forgetting at the moment. Our efforts are bringing hope and good news to so many—near and far. Funerals and weddings also fall into this category—especially funerals.

As for the practice of “*Extravagant Generosity*,” we are thriving because of extraordinary sharing, willing sacrifice, and joyous giving, out of love of God and neighbor. Through the abundance of God’s grace, those of our church are driven to be generous by a high sense of mission and a keen desire to please God by making a positive difference in the world. One example that comes to mind is the special offering taken for an area family in a crisis situation after the 39-year-old husband, and father of three children, suffered a fatal heart attack last spring. \$1,940 was collected during the month of March to help this family in their time of extreme need. They had been one of our Habitat for Humanity housing recipients, and the man had been so grateful that he helped to build houses for others in the program.

The list goes on and on for each of the above categories—we could add: our impeccably well-groomed and maintained buildings and grounds (thanks to our Trustees, and the generosity of individuals), our weekly Coffee Fellowship, the Youth Scholarship Program, the Come Together Club—all the groups and programs reported in this book, and more.

After writing this, it occurs to me that we excel in *each and every one* of the above areas—that we are truly focused on our primary task of “Making Disciples” through the process of inviting people to Christ, nurturing disciples and sending persons forth in mission and ministry.

I thank everyone for all that they do. Indeed, we are “bearing much fruit,” and that is how we glorify God.

God loves you and so do I.

Pastor Dottie

FUMC MEMBER NOTES

Baptized on September 27, 2009: Leah Isabella Mendez, daughter of Jorge Mendez and Stephanie Haskins.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Will Somers who passed away October 1

Received into Membership on October 25, 2009: Edna Lorraine Houtalen.

Our condolences to the family of Edna Lorraine Hotalen who passed away on October 31, 2009.

FUMC MAIL BOX

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation from Newton Day made on June 20, 2009 which will directly support the Manna House program to feed the hungry in Sussex County. Manna House exists on spontaneous giving and has no government funding. In this time of economic struggle for many, it is the on going support of people like you which keeps Manna House open.

Manna House is a soup kitchen that has been serving a meal at noontime each weekday in our community for nearly 20 years. The project involves volunteers from 24 different congregations, as well as individuals and civic groups. We serve this free meal to anyone who enters and generally have 55-70 people on any given day. During the summer, we often serve children who are not

getting their lunch in school. We have served over 237,000 meals throughout our years of service.

The Manna House Board of Directors wishes to thank you again for your support.

Sincerely yours,
Carol Stickney

To our Church family friend,

We continue to be truly thankful for your generosity. We are very blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Sincerely,
The Snellen family

Dear Pastor Dann,

We are writing this letter to express our gratitude to the Sapio family and Newton First United Methodist Church for donating school supplies. Members of your church were very generous and the items have been well received by many of our students in need. The need for school supplies actually increases as the year progresses—because so many supplies were donated, students will be able to receive supplies for many months to come.

On behalf of our faculty and students, we thank you.

Sincerely,
Karen Perez, Principal Halsted Middle School
Deidre Gross, School Counselor

Thank you for my scholarship. It will help greatly towards my college. I appreciate your generosity

Kenton Foster

Memorials, Special Gifts and Estates



When special occasions arise, consider the "Perfect Gift" which perpetuates our church,

providing special needs beyond the operating budget, and making a lifelong connection for individuals. Acknowledgement cards are mailed to donors & families.

Memorials & Special Gifts received this past month

Memorials

Jeanne Argentero
(Mother of Donna Hontz)

James Cohrs
Lucretia Willis
Harold Matsuguma

Given by

Kathleen & Terrance Quinn

Kathleen & Terrance Quinn
Jim & Gail Ewin
Jim & Gail Ewin

FROM YOUR NEW MINISTER OF MUSIC:

I've been amongst you folks for only 2 weeks and I already feel like a member of the family. I do not exaggerate when I say that I have never felt a warmer welcome from a congregation -starting with my first telephone conversation with Dan to the initial interview with your leadership, the full committee, the choir, the other folks involved in the musical life of the church, most of all Pastor Dottie. I am impressed with the quality of the choir and hope that I'm smart enough to come up with ways to make them even better. It is also a blessing to have such an impressive organ and piano, in addition to the Band, Bell-Ringers and other hidden treasures I'm probably not even privy to yet.

If you, as a congregant really want to make me feel welcome (and I KNOW that you do...), please consider how you can help "grow" the choir. We sound great with our limited numbers, but

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

with such a small “core” group, any absences make a huge difference - to the point where, after careful planning, last-minute changes would sometimes to be made. If you are not a member or the choir because Thursday nite rehearsals present a time-problem for you, please let me know that, that we can work-out a solution that would enable you to participate (and contribute!) on Sunday mornings. I can give you a couple of’ worth in advance, meet with you early on Sundays or just before or after the coffee-hour, make a cassette of our rehearsals and of your part in particular, schedule the coming Sunday’s anthem to be rehearsed at that 15 minute window that let me know you can make rehearsal on the preceding Thursday. Let’s all think “outside the box” and make it possible for the Chancel Choir to represent in its numbers (and quality) the full potential of what a congregation of this size can establish and deserves! Remember, this is not a life-time commitment. Serve when your schedule allows, and you will be made to feel most appreciated.

Finally, I would invite you to contribute in another way. If you are not personally vocally-blessed but love the music of the church, I can promise you that any monetary gifts - in the forms of a memorial or just a very small amount to, perhaps, honor a loved-on on a special occasion, will be respectfully invested in, for instance, a guest soloist or in a manner of your choosing. Please feel free to contact me at anytime to share ideas of this nature.

Again, thank you for your warm welcome to this place. I, in turn, welcome your thoughts and ideas and need your prayers.

Richard Harley

“Take up the towel” with SERRV this holiday season

Hope and justice with every purchase - a greater gift

- To promote a sustainable way of life
- To value the lives of others
- To believe in the good will of people
- To love and to cherish
- To build a strong community
- To enrich and be enriched
- To treat friends and enemies as the same
- To participate, to live, and to breathe
- To create a better future
- To restore a damaged planet
- To embrace a better lifestyle
- To enrich the time I have with others
- To find inspiration in a pot
- To add value, comfort and support
- To inspire others to SERRV
- To eradicate poverty, wherever it resides

Here is an opportunity to make a real difference to someone's life. A chance to have a direct impact on one of our global market's great injustices: the inequality of income and quality of life for people living in developing countries. Please check out our SERRV booth every Sunday in November and December after the early service in the foyer and in Holland Hall after the 10 AM service. We have some beautiful new items for your family, friends, yourself and even pets. If you have something special in mind please speak to Alice Sharick or Elizabeth Elvidge. Help us help artisans and farmers take better care of their families, every dollar counts in so many ways. So please shop our SERRV booth first.

WORSHIP AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST

November 1

All Saints Sunday

Communion

Pastor Dottie preaching

November 8

Veterans Recognition Sunday

Pastor Dottie preaching

November 15

Consecration Sunday

Mark Hontz, preaching

November 22

Christ the King Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday

Pastor Dottie preaching

November 29

First Sunday of Advent

Special extended prelude

Pastor Dottie preaching

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOVEMBER 29

Worship on the first Sunday of Advent will make the beginning of the Advent Season very special with music provided by special guest artists as well as our own Chancel Choir and Joyful Ringers Handbells.

Come and invite your friends to worship at 9:50 a.m. to enjoy a special extended prelude featuring professional opera singer Theodore Chletsos, Tenor, who will be performing from Handel's *Messiah*. Also featured will be a trumpet and flute duet of "Pie Jesu" and a flute trio.

Worship will be followed by a special reception which is sponsored by our Chancel Choir and United Methodist Women.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS COMING NOVEMBER 15, 2009

Our approach to financial stewardship is from a biblical perspective, not merely a way to raise funds to pay its bills. We view financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. We encourage people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend although they

may feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card nor about the amount entered.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship we will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

*Stewardship Committee
Consecration Sunday Team*

Please make your reservation for the
Luncheon Celebration November 15

Sign up at worship on November 1 or 8 or contact the church office

We apologize for our failure to provide a Newsletter for October.

WHAT DOES OUR “FAIR SHARE” DO?

When Mike was four, his mother fatally shot his father. “He was beating on her and Mom was tired of putting up with it, so she shot him,” Mike explained.

His mother went to prison and Mike went to live with relatives. Six years later the local department of human services learned that Mike was being abused and took him into its care. During the next eight years, he was placed in four foster homes and three group homes.

“People would tell me how great it would be living with them, and that they loved me, but soon they moved me to a different place,” he said. “The more I hung on to people, the more I got hurt when I left them, so I learned to shut off my feelings.”

When he was about 17, Mike was placed in a group home in Oklahoma City. He felt cared for and the conditions were better than they had been, but he worried about the future. “I knew that the day I turned 18, I would age out of foster care,” he said. “Where would I live? I didn’t have any family to take me in. I wasn’t qualified for a job that would support me.”

The director of the group home told Mike about Carolyn Williams Center in Oklahoma City, a transitional living program for homeless young men who have aged out of foster care. A Center applicant must pass a drug test and criminal background check. He must sign a contract agreeing to comply with rules that promote a safe and stable environment. Within 30 days he must be employed or at school full time. He can stay up to two years. Mike applied and was accepted.

When he turned 18 in January, Carolyn Williams Center became his home. He has his own room with a bathroom down the hall. He eats breakfast and dinner there and is on his own for lunch. He receives funds to attend a community college, and this fall he starts his second semester.

Mike knows he has a long way to go. “I’m still trying to figure out who I am, but at least I’ve decided I am somebody,” he said.

The Carolyn Williams Center was opened in September, 2005 at Neighborhood Services Organization, a national mission institution supported by U.M Woman, a part of the General Board of Global Ministries. Tracy L9ong, who has directed the Center since it opened, knows what it’s like to be homeless. “I grew up in foster care”, Ms. Long said. “When I left at 18 I got in bad trouble, but God didn’t give up on me and neither did some wonderful people. They helped me get my life back on the right track. Now I have a chance to do for others what they did for me.”

Carolyn Williams Center is one spot where our Fair Share gifts make a difference to God’s children in need.

Adapted from “Aging Out in Oklahoma”, Response, September 2009, p10-11

Newsletter Staff

Carol Wallenburg, ***Editor*** (carolgwally@embarqmail.com)

Daniel Rutan, ***Publishing***

Preparers: Elsie Burdge, Bob Flatt, Ethel Musser

The newsletter is produced 11 times per year. Deadlines are the third Sunday of the month. It is also available via e-mail or on the church’s web-site.



Over the summer we added the following books to our shelves:

by Janette Oke, found in the fiction section:

A Gown of Spanish Lace
The Bluebird and the Sparrow
Love Finds a Home

by Helen Julian, found at DD# 218

The Road to Emmaus

by Boniface Hanley, found at DD# 282

Paulest Father Isaac Hecker: an American Saint

by John White, found at DD# 225.2

Parables: the Greatest Stories Ever Told

published by United Methodist Women; DD# 287

Ceremonies: Worship Resources for UMW

by Philip Yancey, found at DD# 221

The Bible Jesus Read

by Von W. Unruh, found at DD# 248

Finding Christ, Finding Life

by Simon Peter Iredate, found at DD# 248

The Interior Mountain: Encountering God with the Desert
Saints

by Paul F. M. Zahl, foun at DD# 232

The First Christian Universal Truth in the Teachings of
Jesus

by Maxie Dunnam, found at DD# 235

Workbook on Keeping Company with the Saints: William
Law, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, Brother
Lawrence

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ON SUNDAY MORNING!

If you will serve as an Usher, please contact Sandra Barnes.

If you will serve as a Worship-time Greeter,
please contact Elsie Burdge.

If you will help prepare the elements for Holy Communion,
please contact Dick Carlson.

If you will serve as an Acolyte (altar candle lighter),
please contact Marion Fischer.

If you will serve as a Liturgist (reading the Scripture),
please contact Gail Ewin

If you will serve at Fellowship Time, please contact Beulah
Capitulik.

If you wish to be trained to operate the Sound/Amplification
system for Sunday Worship, please contact Jerry
Tavolaro.

If you wish to be trained to run the Videocamera for Sunday
Worship, please contact Dan Rutan.

If you will serve in any of these ways, please contact the person
listed or the church office at (973) 383-4450.

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

Sponsored by the United Methodist Men

December 5, 2009

8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

At First United Methodist Church

Tickets:

Adult: \$7

Childe: \$4

Under 3 years old, free

DAILY BIBLE READING

Called to be Free to Give God Thanks and Praise

November	1	Psalm 8
November	2	Psalm 145
November	3	Psalm 146
November	4	Psalm 147
November	5	Psalm 148
November	6	Psalm 149
November	7	Psalm 150
November	8	Exodus 35:1-29
November	9	Deuteronomy 26:1-19
November	10	Malachi 3:5-18
November	11	2 Corinthians 8:1-24
November	12	2 Corinthians 9:1-15
November	13	Psalm 46
November	14	Psalm 48
November	15	Psalm 64
November	16	Psalm 65
November	17	Psalm 66
November	18	Psalm 67
November	19	Psalm 84
November	20	Psalm 95
November	21	Psalm 96
November	22	Psalm 97 (Bible Sunday)
November	23	Psalm 98
November	24	Psalm 99
November	25	Psalm 100
November	26	Psalm 103 (Thanksgiving Day)
November	27	Psalm 107
November	28	Psalm 108
November	29	Jeremiah 33:1-26 (First Sunday of Advent)
November	30	Psalm 136

BIRTHDAYS

11/3 Thomas Baldwin
11/4 Bill Coe, Harold Dunn
11/5 Wendy Russell
11/6 Nikki Albert
11/7 Eric Fucito, Brooke Myers
11/8 Irene Blauvelt, William Keller
11/9 Kelsey Barker, Lindsay Barker
11/10 Dolores Decker
11/11 Margaret Miller, Angelina Carlson
11/14 James Williams
11/15 Wendy Grosso
11/17 Dina Morris
11/18 Joe Sapio
11/20 Ralph Cummins, Julia Edwards, John-Paul Couce, Amanda
Jacinto
11/21 Laura Frasier
11/22 Wilson Jackson, Debbie Walter, Carol Abrams
11/23 Marilyn Fox, Lori Catalano
11/24 Donald Waldron, Autumn Kelly
11/26 Raymond Crane, Autumn Kilduff
11/27 Jake Popjes, Thatcher Iliff, Lyndsay Floystad
11/28 Raymond Morris
11/29 Bob Foster
11/30 Catherine Abrams

Is your birthday missing or listed incorrectly here? Let the church office know so that we may correct our records!

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Dorothy Dann
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. E. T. Holland
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Dr. H. Alden Welch
Director of Music	Richard H. Harley
Office Administrator	Daniel Rutan
Coordinator of Youth	Matthew Querns
Nursery Care Worker	Samantha Spooner
Church Sexton	Bob Carey

First United Methodist Church

111 Ryerson Avenue
Newton, NJ 07860

Phone: (973) 383-4450

Fax: (973) 383-0084

www.bgbm-umc.org/fumcnewtonnj
NEWTONFUMC@EMBARQMAIL.COM

