



Union Village United Methodist Church

The Village Voice

Volume 4 Issue 4

Winter 2008

From the Pastor's Desk...

Take time off with God

Did you notice? The colors of the leaves are especially beautiful this year. Red, orange, yellow against the background of clear blue sky... how picturesque! The falling leaves, colder nights and cooler days signal the change of season and approaching Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. You might wonder "Thanksgiving, already?" Yes, it is November and Thanksgiving will be upon us before we know it and then we will be catapulted into the frenzy of the Christmas season. Whether one is retired or still working, busy-ness seems to be what life is all about and we even stopped questioning "Why? And for what?" With all the gadgets and technologies that are supposed to save us time, why is it that we are busier than ever and do not have time for anything anymore? A wise person once said, "It is an old and ironic habit of human beings to run faster when we have lost our way." Could it be that in the midst of busyness, we have lost our way that we run faster and faster going in circles?

Do you remember way back when there was time for everything, time to spend with families and friends, time for recreation, and certainly time for God? There was a time in

our culture when attending worship service every Sunday was not even a choice or a question. It was taken for granted that people went to church on Sunday mornings and families gathered for Sunday Dinner after church. If you are of the GI generation (Born between 1901-1924) or the Silent generation (Born between 1925-1942), you will remember those days very well. Fast forward 50-60 years and today, many are asking, "Why take the time to worship? We are so busy and there are so many things to do and places to go!" To respond to this very important question, we can start by saying "Because God said so!" God said to keep the Sabbath holy and worship God only. I believe the commandments God gave were more for our sake than for God. God saw that it was critical to our health, spiritual, emotional and physical that we take time off to re-create so that we do not run ourselves ragged. If God worked six days and rested on the seventh, are we better than God that we can just go and keep going like the Energizer bunny?

According to a Greek legend, in ancient Athens a man noticed the great storyteller Aesop playing childish games with some little boys. He laughed and

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Mark Your Calendar!

November

- 3 8am Rotary Breakfast
- 11 Trustees
- 12 Noon—Retired Men
- 14 UMW Cluster Meeting
- 17 7pm Finance
7:30pm Ad Council
- 23 Thanksgiving Sunday
- 26 Noon—Retired Men
Thanksgiving Cluster Service
- 27 *Happy Thanksgiving!*
- 28 Office Closed

December

- 1 8am UMM Breakfast
Annual Church Conference
- 7 4pm Hanging of the Greens
- 10 10:30 Wednesday Group
Noon—Retired Men
- 15 7pm Finance
7:30pm Ad Council
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship Service
- 25 *Merry Christmas!*
- 26 Office Closed

See Inside Calendar for details

Take Time Off With God *Continued from page 1*

jeered at Aesop, asking him why he wasted his time in such frivolous activity. Aesop responded by picking up a bow, loosening its string, and placing it on the ground. Then he said to the critical Athenian, "Now, answer the riddle, if you can. Tell us what the unstrung bow implies." The man looked at it for several moments but had no idea what point Aesop was trying to make. Aesop explained, "If you keep a bow always bent, it will break eventually; but if you let it go slack, it will be more fit for use when you want it."

People are also like that. That's why we all need to take time to re-create and re-fresh. Start by setting aside a special time to relax physically and renew yourself emotionally and spiritually. Ten minutes daily to reflect and meditate on the word of God and pray will do wonders for you. Worshipping God on Sunday morning with your church family will be an opportunity to unwind, unstrung so that you can be at your best for the Lord, yourself and those around you.

Pastor Grace



The Annual Hanging of the Greens

**will take place as part of the 10 AM worship
service on Sunday, December 7th.**



Bring a toy to be presented at the altar for a needy child.



Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see 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.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New 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. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

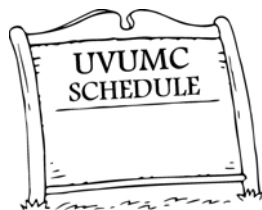
During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

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 who 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.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader 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.



Our new worship schedule effective

November 16th:

One service at 10:00 AM

The Annual Church Conference at Union Village will be held on Saturday, December 6th at 10:30 AM. The SPR meeting with the DS will precede the Conference at 9:30 AM. All are encouraged to attend our Annual Church Conference.





UMW News

UMW CLUSTER MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 at 10:00 AM

With our UMW sisters from New Providence and Diamond Hill, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Gail Granowitz from Bishop Janes Methodist Church in Basking Ridge who will talk to us about the medical mission trip she took in February to Ganta Hospital in Liberia. Ganta Hospital is one of nine mission hospitals (seven in Africa and two in Asia) that are supported by the Methodist Church. During this time she assisted the staff there by giving anesthesia, teaching and helping to determine where the hospital would like to take their nascent surgical program. Currently the hospital has one doctor on staff who is an OB/GYN by training, two nurses who give anesthesia, and a dedicated nursing and support staff.

Since her visit Gail has begun to understand what are their dreams for this hospital. Currently they have the ability to administer only rudimentary general spinal anesthesia which means that if the patient has an illness or injury which would necessitate "going to sleep" he is out of luck.

Ganta hospital was all but destroyed several years ago during the civil war, and also suffers from the typical African problems of poverty, crime and disease.

In turn these problems have been exacerbated by corrupt leadership, lack of infrastructure and unemployment. Fortunately, the Methodist church still supports the hospital and is a beacon of hope for them in an otherwise bleak landscape.

While working at the hospital Gail met a young man names Moses King, who had already received training as a nurse, and whom she determined would be an excellent candidate for further education. She approached the Bishop Janes UMW and they have agreed to sponsor his two years of tuition to become a certified nurse anesthetist. Moses will keep them up to date with his studies and has promised to return to Ganta Hospital where he began his career, and to use his knowledge to "pay it forward" and to train others in this discipline.

We are looking forward to meeting Dr Granowitz and to hear first hand about her experience in Liberia.

Anyone interested in this topic is invited to join the UMW for this morning coffee meeting, and to bring as many friends as possible. As usual, any interested gentlemen are cordially invited to join us.

A note of thanks...

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our Union Village family for all the love and support you have given to us over this past year. We have truly felt your caring and prayers even when we were not here with you. Jeremy's death has been a real tragedy for our whole family. Now we must move ahead with our lives. Please continue to pray for the Wilson family — especially for Laurel and Claire as they begin to take these tenuous steps forward. With our faith and your support, we look toward a brighter future.

With love, hope and peace,
George and Lois Pollard

Nursery School News

As the temperature drops and the leaves continue to fall, I greet the onset of winter with a sense of heightened excitement. This is such a busy time of year, filled with exciting activities as our nursery school children prepare for the upcoming holidays.

Special Events

To start the holiday excitement, the children were treated to a reptile show. Part of the learning experience is for children to have experiences that go beyond the classroom. Our reptile show was one such experience—where not only did they learn about reptiles, but also had the opportunity to touch a variety of non-dangerous snakes, lizards, iguanas and other amazing reptiles. We look forward to having our furry pet show in the spring!



Did you vote?

In our Passport to Adventure enrichment program, the children as good citizens voted. Yes, they did! The children learned what it means to vote and how we choose a leader. Of course, this was all discussed on a three and four year old level. They were shown pictures of Batman and Superman and then had to choose who they felt would lead our country. They dropped their picture card in our class-made ballot box. The results will be posted!

Holidays are special times...

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays of the year. At this time of year, we begin to teach our children about being thankful for God's bounty. Through songs,

games, stories and dramatizations, the story of Thanksgiving begins to take on a concrete meaning for the children. They learn the meaning of "thankful" and how fortunate they are to have warm homes, plenty of food, and most importantly—a loving family. They learn the Thanksgiving story and discuss the lives of the Native Americans and Pilgrims. This year several of the classes are coming together to celebrate and will feast on "class-made" foods such as vegetable soup, corn muffins, cranberry gelatin, applesauce and more. All of our Native American chiefs and princesses look outstanding in their headdresses and colorful beaded necklaces.

December will be filled with all classes learning songs, making special keepsake gifts for their families and learning about the true meaning of Christmas and other holidays. We are very happy that Pastor Grace will be taking time from her busy schedule to present a special Christmas program for the children. Once again, Santa will be visiting with little gifts at our special holiday class parties.

As we begin the countdown to say goodbye to the old year and hello to the new, I would like to say that there is no doubt that Union Village Nursery School will continue to grow and flourish in the New Year. I am very proud to be able to contribute to its continued growth and success.

On behalf of the staff of Union Village Nursery School, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a safe, happy and healthy New Year.

Fran Pearlson, Director



Musical Notes



We Need ... More Singers, More Ringers and a practice piano!

Our musical season here at Union Village has gotten off to a rather shaky start. For various reasons our Chancel Choir is down by half. In the bell choir (which has always been short-handed, but we've been able to get by), we have lost our four-in-hand ringer – Chris, who had the ability to ring four bells at once, graduated from college and moved to Washington, D.C. to start his career.

In both groups, these losses are limiting our ability to perform the type of music we are accustomed to performing, and would like to continue to present. If anyone has an interest in either group (or both) now is the time to come forward and help these ministries continue!

More Singers – The Chancel Choir especially needs more women, and in particular, sopranos. This does not mean you need to be able to sing opera and hit a high “C”. Sopranos usually sing the melody, so it is often the easiest part to learn and does not require a high level of music reading skills. I always select music that is set in a lower range, and our sopranos do not really need to sing that high. Other voice parts are always welcome, too. We rehearse on Thursday nights from 7:00- 8:15 p.m., and meet at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings to prepare for the worship service. Additionally, we may be adding some day-time rehearsals if there is enough interest..

More Ringers -- The Bell Choir has openings for three new ringers. While the ability to read music is important, the ability to read every note on the staff is not really necessary.

Bell ringers are assigned to play two notes, plus their associated sharps or flats – for example, you may be assigned to the notes F and G and at times you would also be responsible for F-sharp and G-sharp, depending on the key signature and/or harmonies. So if one does not read notes well, you can always highlight your particular notes on the music. Of greater importance, however, is an understanding of how to count rhythms. If you are interested in playing with the bell choir, but are not comfortable with music reading or counting, I am willing to provide some tutorial sessions. Please contact me if you would like to be a part of this group. We rehearse on Thursday nights at 8:15 p.m. for about an hour, and perform about four times a year, including Christmas Eve and Easter.

A Practice Piano – For several years, chancel choir members have had to drag folding chairs into the sanctuary for our rehearsals on Thursday nights. (Sitting in the pews is not conducive to a good singing posture or an effective rehearsal.) This is becoming a burden for us, and at our current size we could rehearse in the choir room, as was done in years past, if we had a small piano. If you have a spinet or console-size piano in good condition that you no longer want and would like to donate to us, please contact me.

While this year is proving to be a challenge, I would like to express my thanks to those who are still faithfully ringing and singing with us – thank you for your time and dedication.

Linda Langstaff

Director of Music





Yes! I/We wish to help provide Poinsettias for our Christmas worship.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

No.	Color	Cost	Amount
_____	Marble	5 in: 6.00	_____
		6.5 in: 9.00	_____
		7.5 in: 18.00	_____
_____	Red	5 in: 6.00	_____
		6.5 in: 9.00	_____
		7.5 in: 18.00	_____
_____	White	5 in: 6.00	_____
		6.5 in: 9.00	_____
		7.5 in: 18.00	_____
_____	Pink	5 in: 6.00	_____
		6.5 in: 9.00	_____
		7.5 in: 18.00	_____
TOTAL			_____

* 10" pots for 28.00 and 12" pots for \$38.00 are also available.

My gift is given to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Place the order form with your check marked "Poinsettias" in the offering plate or bring to the church office no later than 12/2/08.

**Union Village United Methodist Church
Rev. Grace S. Pak, Pastor**

**The Village Voice
November-December 2008**

**Sunday Worship
10:00 AM**

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday
9:00 AM-1:00 PM**

**Phone: (908) 647-2120
Fax: (908) 647-5743
E-Mail: uvumc@optonline.net**

**Visit us on the web:
www.gb-gm-umc.org/unionvillage/**



*Union Village United Methodist Church
1130 Mountain Avenue
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922*

Address Correction Requested



Thanksgiving/Consecration Sunday

November 23rd

Worship Service at 10:00 am

Thanksgiving Luncheon to follow.

Call Church office to RSVP by Nov. 19th

