



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church Newsletter
446 Camden Avenue, Moorestown, NJ 08057
856-235-0450

Rev. Stephen Donat, Pastor
Rev. HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor
Glenn Rodgers, Director of Music Karen Murray, Director of Christian Education Sue Harris, Parish Nurse
Brad Kenney, Director of Youth Ministries Devika Gill, Director of First Light Learning Center

Join us for Worship - Saturday 5:30 pm, Sunday 8:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am
Visit us on the Web at: www.meetwithGod.com -or- Email us at: church@meetwithGod.com

NOVEMBER 2011



VETERANS' DAY PRAISE AND PRAYER SERVICE

On Sunday, November 13, 2011, FUMC will honor its military veterans with a Praise and Prayer Service at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary with a reception to follow. All are invited to attend our annual service, especially our veterans, their families, and friends. FUMC is handicapped accessible. Look for more details in upcoming Sunday bulletins.

AN OPEN INVITATION TO THANKSGIVING DINNER

As Thanksgiving draws near many of you will be busy making your plans. Some will travel away while others will be making arrangements for receiving loved ones. First United Methodist Church, Moorestown would like to celebrate this Thanksgiving with any of you and your friends who do not have a special place to share your blessings, or anyone who wants to bring your family to join us, you are welcome! Dinner will be Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24th, from 3:30-6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to be our guest, contact Pastor HeyYoung at 235-0450 by Nov. 23rd. Share this welcome with others!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Please join us for our annual Advent Night Celebration, Sunday, Nov. 27th. A covered dish supper will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by our traditional Advent wreath-making. Other Christmas craft projects will be available. Watch for details in upcoming Sunday bulletins.

FALL PROPERTY DAY Saturday, Nov. 19th

The Property Committee requests your help on November 19th as we join together to spruce up the outside and polish up the inside of the church. This is a very productive event with a rewarding sense of fellowship. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the table in the Narthex. Any questions should be directed to Joel Bewley at bewley1@comcast.net.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Nov. 1st | All Saints Day |
| Nov. 2nd | Sing Along at Innova - 10:30 a.m. |
| Nov. 2nd | New Members class begins - 7:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 4th | Grounds for Good - 8:00 - 11:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 6th | Daylight Saving Time ends |
| Nov. 6th | Confirmation Parent meeting - 12:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 11th | Veterans Day |
| Nov. 13th | Veteran's Day service - 6:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 14th | Miriam Circle - 7:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 17th | At Ease Veterans Group - 7:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 18th | Rock 4 Relief |
| Nov. 19th | Fall Property Day - 8:00 a.m. |
| Nov. 19th | Adult Fellowship - 6:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 19-20 | Covenant Weekend - all services |
| Nov. 20th | UMM Breakfast - 7:45 a.m. |
| Nov. 20th | Light Harbor at Innova - 2:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 20th | Karen Christianson recital - 4:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 21st | Youth Chick-fil-A fundraiser - 5-8:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 24th | Thanksgiving - church office closed |
| Nov. 25th | Church office closed |
| Nov. 27th | Bl. pressure screenings - 9:30am-12:30pm |
| Nov. 27th | Advent Night Celebration - 6:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 29th | Lifeline Screening - 9:00 a.m. |

LAY LEADER LINES

What an exciting year it has been for our church family! So many have taken steps, considered the cost and moved toward following Jesus with deeper service and commitment. Arch Fisher is beginning the steps toward ordination; one family with four children is considering missionary work; and many have begun new areas of ministry and service within and without our church walls.

This year, the Lay Leaders coordinated several events to promote, encourage and assist our congregation. The District Day of Learning attracted more people from our church than ever before. Some attended workshops, and some helped set up, guide, clean up and take down for the nearly 300 visitors from all the churches in the Capital District.

Stealing a few minutes at Church Council meetings, the Lay Leaders began presenting mini-workshops in June. They have offered information on preparing for Come & See Sunday, revising committee chairs' visions and mission statements so we are all fulfilling our church's mission: "to share the love of Jesus Christ with a hurting world through words and actions." December's mini-workshop will be on how Christian leadership differs from business leadership.

Come & See Sunday on October 2 involved more ministries than ever before. Over forty groups were represented: Communications, Library, Coffeeshouse, Divorce Care, Music and Arts, Worship, Acolytes, Greeters, Divorce Care for Kids, Stephen Ministry, Pre-school, Cool Air, Missions, Church & Society, Movie Night, At Ease, Friday Morning Men's Study, Saturday Morning Men's Prayer, Adult Fellowship, Singles Mingle, 1st Place 4 Health, 20's-30's, Interfaith Hospitality Network, First Friends, Christian Education, Liturgical Dance, Heart-to-Heart, Soldiers Ministry, Outreach, Salvation Army, Light Harbor, 9:30 and 11 A.M. Adult Sunday School, Sermon Discussion, Boy Scouts, Youth, Kate's Place, Staff-Parish, Grief Share, Monday Ladies Study, Walk to Emmaus, Youth Band, Property, Methodist Men. The time, talent and service of the people in these groups is greatly admired and appreciated.

The Lay Leaders also assisted Pastor Hey Young in the new members classes and will lead the next class which begins on November 2. They also met formally and

informally with the pastors several times during the year. Betsy Heinz and Bobbie Shinehouse attended the GNJ Conference's Lay Leadership Conference and represented the congregation at Annual Conference in 2011.

Finally, the Lay Leaders disseminated news sent from the Conference to committee chairs and others via e-mail and wrote dozens of bulletin blurbs about opportunities for the congregation, such as workshops, mission trips, and travel experiences. It is a great pleasure to serve our Lord and this church!

Betsy Heinz, Lay Leader
Scott McGough, Associate Lay Leader



**NEWS FROM THE
PARISH NURSE**

LIFELINE SCREENING RADIOLOGY is coming to 1st UMC once again on **Tuesday, November 29, 2011**. Lifeline Screening Radiology will be conducting screening tests in the Heritage Room, for stroke, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease, atrial fibrillation (irregular heart rhythm) and osteoporosis. **THERE IS A CHARGE FOR THESE TESTS, and pre-registrations is required.** Detailed information about the different tests, costs etc. are printed on the bright pink sheets located on the Welcome Center in the Narthex. To pre-register please call 1-800-324-1851. Any questions call Sue Harris at 235-2575.

BLOOD PRESSURE AND BLOOD SUGAR SCREENINGS will be held in Room F103 (the new Library) on **Sunday, November 27, 2011, from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm**. Jennifer Blackman, who is a 2nd year medical student at the University of Maryland, will be conducting the screenings, and will answer any questions that you may have regarding your screening results. Printed information on blood pressure and blood sugar will also be available at the screening. Please feel free to "pop in" after any of our church services to be screened. Any questions, call Sue Harris at 235-2575.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." Ephesians 5:25

"Most people agree that modern Americans are living in a society permeated with divorce. Even in the mass media, divorces and remarriages are common fodder for television shows and movies. Headlines are splashed with the tawdry details of the latest celebrity split. The most recent compilation of divorce statistics reveals interesting information about the state of the American family.

For the past decade, the overall American divorce rate has remained stable, at around **50%** for first marriages. The statistics are become more depressing for each successive marriage, with **65%** of second marriages ending in divorce and even higher rates for third marriages and beyond. Divorce rate statistics show that **3.6 to 5%** of marriages are ending every year, cumulating in a large portion of adults who have personally experienced divorce at some point in their lives.

Unfortunately, families with children make up a large proportion of marriages ending in divorce. Statistics show that two out of three marriages ending in divorce have minor children in the home. American children are the least likely in the Western world to grow up in the same household as both biologically related parents, with only **63%** living in this situation at any given time. Over nine percent of all households are led by single mothers, and almost two percent by single fathers. This means that over ten percent of American households are being managed and supported by overburdened, exhausted single parents. In contrast, married households with children at home make up just one third of the population.

Ways that Make Marriages Last

Couples who received **premarital counseling** have a much lower rate of divorce. This is probably because they worked out their differences in a calm and neutral setting before the actual situations arose. Couples who **actively practice a religion together and pray on a daily basis** have a much lower divorce rate, which is estimated at around **1-2%**. However, religious couples who are not as active do not enjoy this low divorce rate; conservative Christians in general were more likely than atheists or agnostics to divorce.

Another good way to avoid becoming part of the divorce statistics is to marry at a later age. Statistics

show that women who married as teens have the worst divorce rates, and women who married after 25 are the most successful in their marriages. Age and maturity play a huge role in a marriage's chance of success.

As the statistics show, divorce in America has risen to the point that every marriage is threatened. Behind the numbers are millions of families struggling to rebuild after this incredible loss. However, most people do not regret their divorce once the actual legal procedure is complete. Even among people who were not the instigators of divorce, most divorced couples are happier years later. Although many people view divorce as a threat to the fabric of American society, it clearly can be the right choice in many circumstances." (Information taken from Divorce Guide, copyright 2011).

So...How Can the Church Make a Difference?

Beginning WEDNESDAY January 4th at 6:45pm and continuing for 6 weeks our church will be hosting a program called **"MARRIAGE Built to Last - Living Intentionally & Loving Biblically"** This 6 week DVD study written by Christian author Chip Ingram with interviews by Kurt & Brenda Warner is designed for **ALL** married folks; whether you're newly married, remarried, or just wanting to improve your marital relationship, this program will help. Topics include...*Adjusting to Expectations, Learning to Communicate Clearly, Breaking Down Walls, Resolving Conflict, Restoring Sex & Intimacy & Striving for a Christ-Centered Marriage.* This program will lead up to a **4 week Sermon Series...'Yoked for Life'** led Pastor Steve & Pastor HeyYoung beginning January 28th/29th.

If you would like to participate in the "*Marriage Built to Last*" program please contact Karen Murray, Director of Christian Education at 856-222-1120 or education@meetwithGod.com to register. There is no cost however we would like to have enough Workbooks for all in attendance so pre-registration is suggested.

Other Wednesday offerings include *DivorceCare & DivorceCare-4-Kids, Grief Share, Jr. & Sr. High Bible Study.* Childcare is provided at no cost.

See pg. 4 for upcoming Education Dept. events



ORGAN RECITAL
Sunday, Nov. 20th
4:00 p.m.

Karen Electra
Christianson
Organist

Karen Electra Christianson, age 16, is an eleventh grade honors student at The Episcopal Academy in Newtown Square, PA. Karen made her organ performance debut at age 7 on Christmas Eve 2002 at historic Christ Church in Philadelphia. Since then, her musical career has taken her halfway around the world, with recital engagements in venues ranging from Athens, Greece, to Honolulu, Hawaii. During the past year, she has performed at the Princeton University Chapel (broadcast live on WWFM, the New Jersey Classical Network), the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., Trinity Church in Boston, and Coventry Cathedral in England. Karen was also featured on the program "From the Top" on National Public Radio, where she was hailed as one of America's best teenage organists. Karen currently studies organ with Alan Morrison, head of the organ department at the Curtis Institute of Music, and improvisation with Jeffrey Brillhart, on the faculty of the Yale School of Music. For more information, see: <http://home.comcast.net/~karen.christianson>.



UPCOMING
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
EVENTS

November 3rd & 17th
Thursday Youth Fellowship
For children ages 5 through 6th grade
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Dinner included.

November 6th
Confirmation Meeting for Parents & Students
12:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room
If your child is interested in participating in this year's Confirmation Class beginning in January please attend this very important meeting.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

First United Methodist Church is a community of faith committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with a hurting world through words and actions.



HELP FILL OUR
MITTEN TREE



1st UMC will again be sponsoring a collections of **gloves, mittens, hats & scarves** to help those in need in our communities to stay warm this winter. Helping is easy! As you do your shopping this coming Christmas season, just pick up an extra item or two, and place your donations on the "Mitten Tree" found in the Sunday School lobby (by the elevator). Or, let your children pick out an item that they think a child their age would like, and hang it on the tree before Sunday School! And if you like to knit or crochet, hand-made items make wonderful donations. The Mitten Tree will be in the lobby beginning Nov. 27th, and donations will be collected until Dec. 11th. All items will be donated to Emergency Services of Burlington County. Last year we collected **556 items!** Please help us once again demonstrate Radical Hospitality in this season of giving - so many families need help, but if each of us makes a small donation, together we can make a big difference.



Daylight Saving Time
ends Sunday, Nov. 6th

Remember to set your clocks
back 1 hour before you go to
bed on Nov. 5th!



Sophie Alexandra Torres
on September 25, 2011; daughter of
Dennis & Michelle Torres

Lillian Katherine O'Neill
on October 9, 2011; daughter of
Michael & Christina O'Neill

Newly Baptized



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers have a symbolic Compass that has a four pointed star displayed for us as a reminder of our ministry and gifts to serve God and others. One of those points is **COMPASSION**. Our Lord demonstrated compassion towards us for he is the Lord of all compassion. We desire to be like Him as we serve and minister to those God brings our way.

Compassion offers whatever is necessary to help heal the hurts of others. Mark 2:3&4 shares the story of the compassion friends had for another friend, and the faith they had in Jesus. We may not have to make an opening and bring you through the roof of a home or building, but we can help bring you through a difficult time.

As Stephen Ministers who have been trained and skilled in care giving to those who are going through a difficult and challenging time be it loneliness, illness or hospitalization, a shut-in or the aged, a time of grief, relationship problems, divorce, a time of crisis, unemployed, or working through some problem or concern we desire to support and be there for you as we meet, share and pray together.

Stephen Ministry is a relationship on a weekly basis with a person who has received 50 hours of intensive training in many helping skills and who will visit you, listen to you, offer resources if those are needed by referrals, pray with you and offer Christian support.

The ministry is a meaningful way for our church to provide and extend an active, ongoing, caring ministry for the people of Moorestown United Methodist Church and for those in our communities.

Stephen Ministers are caring, supportive Christian people who have a desire to be with you in times of need. FUMC has just over 30 available Stephen Ministers. These men and women are here to walk with you. Please speak with a Stephen Minister, (look for our blue and white name badges), talk with one of our pastors, or fill out an attendance card in the church bulletin, to begin a referral for you or someone you know.

*Lord, when I learn that someone is hurting,
Help me know what to do and to say;
Speak to my heart and give me **compassion**,
Let your great love flow through me today.*

* * * * *



GROUND FOR GOOD COFFEEHOUSE WILL FEATURE LEE WHITAKER

The next Grounds for Good Coffeehouse will take place Friday evening, November 4th. The coffeehouse is a great opportunity to spend a relaxing night out with friends and to help support organizations that are making a positive difference in the lives of disadvantaged people throughout our community. Please join us on November 4th when our beneficiary will be New Visions Homeless Shelter. Learn more about this important ministry and enjoy an evening filled with good coffee, good music and good fellowship. This month we will feature music by Lee Whitaker, whose diverse songs contain influences of country, folk, jazz, and pop. The coffeehouse is held in Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the music starts at about 8 p.m. Admission is free, and child care is available at no charge from 8-9:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!



**NEWS FROM
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Fall Project 2011

We have supported the Camden Neighborhood Center, a United Methodist Church Mission, in recent years with a "Holiday Gift" of cash. They do an excellent job of sharing Christian love in their community through good food, fellowship, homework help, Bible Study, etc.

Their wish this year is for funds to improve their computer resources. A computer station could be invaluable to several of the age groups that meet at the Center.

We invite any who are interested to contribute. If you wish to make a donation, see Georgie Jenkins or Ruth Gandek. Checks should be made out to the United Methodist Women.

The gift will be delivered in the late Fall.

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Miriam Circle

Ladies please join Miriam Circle on Nov. 14, at 7:30 PM in the Parlor. Lucy Townsend will lead us in devotions. Our hostesses will be May Van Fossen & Pat Leggoe.

Our Program will be presented by Karen Stutsky, the topic will be "Mission in Disaster". Join us for an evening of Christian Fellowship. For more information call Barbara Dapper at 235-1765.

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Church Women United

On Friday Nov. 4th Church Women United will meet at Friends Meeting at 11:45 for "World Community Day." Lunch will be served, followed by our program "Living our Faith, Unlocking our Actions."

Tickets can be obtained from Barbara Dapper. The cost is \$10.

RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE

We want to thank all our helpers on the Rummage Sale. We made approximately \$7500.00. This money is going to be used for charities and church needs.

This is a list from the Adult Fellowship:

1. Tender Care
2. Contact
3. Samaritan Hospice
4. AME Food Bank
5. IHN
6. Ranch Hope
7. Camden Neighborhood Center
8. General Church Needs
9. Pastor's Fund
10. Miriam Circle
11. Nurse's Fund

During the days of the Rummage Sale we gave to a Baptist Church, Hope Church, Veterans, Animals, Keswick, Families in Need, Homeless men. They do not pay for any of their items. If the church needs any item we give it to them. We serve the entire community.

Our next sale is April 25 and April 26. Start saving your items. Books, jewelry, Nifty Nook, and linens are the best.

Thanks again,
Shirland Daglian
Ellen Maines

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ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Meeting: Saturday, November 19, 2011
Socializing: 6:00 PM
Dinner: 6:30 PM

Program: Asbury Men Singers

For reservations call
Marjie & Dale Duffin, 856-829-6553
Sherry & Jack Evans, 856-234-0516

Remember to bring your place settings and a delicious covered dish.

Hope to see you!

SPOTLIGHT ON SENIORS
Our Featured Senior - Charles Ferdinand Rudolph, Jr.

It is fairly well known that this interviewer and Carol Rudolph are first cousins; her 98 year old mother and my late father were brother and sister. We share a close family relationship; however, I know very little about Charles other than he appears to be a good and caring husband, father, and good to his mother-in-law (my Aunt).

Both of Charlie's parents came from Philadelphia families. His mother's family was Irish Catholic and his father's was German Protestant. His father spent most of his career at Leeds & Northrop; first as a traveling salesman and later as an estimator. But, during a temporary layoff, he worked at a car dealership selling cars in the late 1920's. It was there that he met his future wife, a co-worker.

Charlie was born at Germantown Hospital. His mother became a stay at home mom. The family moved several times but lived mostly in Cheltenham Township where he attended and graduated from Cheltenham High School. His favorite subjects were chemistry and physics. He has a brother, James, seven years younger. Summers were spent in Ocean City, N.J. where the family bought a home when Charlie was 10. His brother still spends the summer in Ocean City and winters in North Fort Myers, Fl.

It was this interest in the sciences that took Charles to the University of Delaware where he graduated with a degree in chemical engineering. The degree led to a career at Rohm and Haas. He later became registered as a Professional Engineer. At Rohm and Haas, he worked as a process engineer, involved in plant design, construction and start-up. Later he became interested in computers leading to a shift in his duties to process control and automation. His work would require temporary transfers to plant locations for start-up of new and modified facilities.

An employee occupying the office across from his was leaving to have a baby. He stopped over to wish her well, and then went to the West Coast for a two week vacation. When he returned, he noticed a new girl in that office. He inquired about the new girl and was told that she was a "Miss Stickel." Somehow from that time on, he frequently needed to go across the hall to borrow her dictionary. She thought maybe he should have his own, so she ordered it for him. This attraction led to a first date to see the "Music Man" at the Stanley Theater in Phila. They thought it wise to keep their dating separate from their business lives; so, when they decided to marry it came as a surprise to their co-workers.

They were married in October 1963 in the Beverly Presbyterian Church with a formal wedding and a reception in the church's large Sunday School room. The honeymoon was a trip to Miami, Fla.

Carol continued to work for a short time after the marriage. She was aware that his job would require him to go out of state; but, she didn't anticipate that it would be so soon after their marriage. They were married on Oct. 26th and left for Houston, TX on Jan. 4th. By this time she was pregnant. They were in Houston for 5 months. Three months after their return to their Phila. apartment, their son, William was born. One year later, they purchased their home in Moorestown, maintaining it even when transferred for longer periods of time. During their second year in Moorestown, daughter Anne Noel was born on Christmas.

When Bill was 4 and Anne was 2, Rohm and Haas sent them to Venezuela for six months. Bill experienced attending a nursery school where no English was spoken. After less than a year back in Moorestown, they were sent to Houston for a year. Home again for less than a year, transferred back to Houston. This project went so well that they were back in Moorestown in two months. There were no transfers for 22 years although Charlie did projects that he covered by short trips alone. Anne was 10 and Bill 12 when a son, Kurt, was born. Fifteen months later, Katherine (Kate) was born. Charlie, Carol and the two younger went back to Houston from 1994 to 1998. The two adult "children" maintained the home in Moorestown. Kurt and Kate graduated from high school and College in Texas. Kate has remained in Texas, marrying and having a daughter, Olivia, and son, Leif. Bill, Anne and Kurt live locally. Bill is married and has a son, Ferdinand, and a daughter, Sylvia.

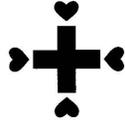
Charlie has always had an interest in baseball since his father took him to his first Phillies game when he was 10. As a youngster, he and a group of his friends talked their way into the wedding of Del Ennis, a Phillies star in the 1940s and 50's. Son, Bill, shares this interest and has partial tickets to the Phillies and Riversharks.

Another interest is that of astronomy. Carol is concerned that when he wanders out in the yard with binoculars at night that the neighbors might be uneasy. He has a small telescope but does most of the observing with binoculars. Stargazing without optical aid is difficult because of light pollution.

Charles retired from Rohm and Haas after 43 years of service. He and Carol began to attend FUMC regularly after their last move back from Houston. His church activities help to keep him busy. He became a sound system operator, an usher, and a member of the team maintaining the church web site. This couple have served as Vice Presidents and Presidents of the Adult Fellowship, gone on a Four Corners mission trip, and worked at the Rummage Sales, are the liaisons with Goodwill to pick up the Rummage Sale leftovers. Charlie has served on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, continues to serve on the Worship Committee and as sound system coordinator. He attends the Adult Bible Study and a Bible study in a private home.

Charlie is the Webmaster and has served as Chairperson for the Delaware Valley Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. He plays duplicate Bridge weekly at the Moorestown Community House. He and Carol have done much traveling. They visit their daughter, Kate, and her family in Texas, and Charlie's 94 year old cousin in Florida. They have traveled through the West Coast and Southwest of the US, to seven countries in Europe (Carol has been to eight) and to Bermuda and Curacao.

This quiet gentleman operating our sound system has many interests that probably few knew about. Just being able to uproot your family and go wherever your company sends you and your family but still be able to maintain a home in Moorestown is mind boggling. Charlie has had a busy and interesting life. He and Carol demonstrate that all things are possible with God's help.



FROM THE PARISH NURSE
Praise to Our Creator

I've just returned from a vacation in Northern California, where I had the wonderful opportunity to spend some time along the beautiful, wild Pacific coast and hike through an awesome redwood preserve. It was all incredibly spectacular and I found such restoration and peace as I tarried through "nature's cathedral". I truly know without a doubt, that nature is the place that I see God most clearly. I see his glory manifested in the mountains, the woods, lakes and streams, in the animals, trees, flowers and sky. In few other places, do I feel God's presence more strongly than in our natural world.

But I realized this morning that I don't have to travel 3,000 miles across the country to witness the Lord's marvelous handiwork. As I sat out in our backyard between rain showers, I reveled in the exquisite array of colors bursting forth from our "October Glory" maple tree. No human artist, no matter how talented, could ever match the subtle hues of gold, burnt orange and green displayed on those leaves as they floated past. I then watched as a male downy woodpecker fed cautiously from our suet feeder, and noticed how the bright yellow goldfinches had molted to their winter grey, while a flock of geese honked noisily above against the roiling gray and white clouds. The marigolds' brilliant orange and yellow blossoms bobbed in the breeze, mindful that their season of life was coming to an end.

These lovely blessings of nature reminded me of a well loved hymn that puts into words the feelings I have for God's beautiful creation. It is rightly entitled, "This is My Father's World", and reads as follows:

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise, the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise. This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair; in the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad? The Lord is King; let the heavens ring! God reigns; let the earth be glad!

As I sing these words my heart is filled with thankfulness for the glory that surrounds me in nature. My prayer is that we might all become more and more aware of God's awesome presence in our beautiful world. Today, take a moment to gaze up at the heavens and check out the clouds, sun, color of the sky, or even a remnant of the full moon. Breathe in the crisp fragrance of the autumn air and take time to notice the changing colors in the leaves. And above all, take a moment to thank the One who makes this all possible - our awesome God, Creator of all things. Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving,
Sue

FUMC'S LIGHT HARBOR MINISTRY

Every November, since 2006, Light Harbor Ministry has hung a red Christmas Stocking in the narthex with names of residents from Innova Health and Rehab who have little or no family to remember them on holidays. Details will be placed with the stocking and in the bulletin so please look for our red stocking hanging in the narthex around Thanksgiving. We never know how many names we will receive but you have always been ready to take a name or two and purchase a special Christmas gift for them.

As we start the busiest season of the year I pray you take the time to stop and enjoy all the sights, sounds, and smells of this wonderful season.

Please join us at the next Innova service on November 20th from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. or any other third Sunday of the month. For more information, contact Linda Wanagas at 856-273-1298.