



# The Messenger

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

Rev. Stephen Donat, Pastor  
Glenn Rodgers, Director of Music  
Kathy Clawges, Director of Youth, Sr. High & College  
Bonnee Noyes-Bongiorno, Parish Nurse

Rev. HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor  
Karen Murray, Director of Christian Education  
Sam Rotz, Director of Youth, Middle School  
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](http://www.meetwithGod.com) -or- Email us at: [church@meetwithGod.com](mailto:church@meetwithGod.com)

JANUARY 2014



## JANUARY AT THE MOVIES *A Note from Pastor Steve*



Someone recently said to me that the “January at the Movies” sermon series was the catalyst for him to begin to study the Bible for the first time in his life. That comment was an incredible blessing to me, because that is *exactly* the reason we do this each year!

It seems to me that many Christians these days have few skills that allow them to interact with our culture with *grace*. We're really good at criticizing the culture and lamenting the 'way things are', but we don't generally listen very well to what the world is saying in order to give a well thought out response.

Yet, Peter writes - *“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”*

Our January at the Movies sermon series is intended to be... fun, on the lighter side, and appealing to those “outside the church” (so you can bring a friend!), but it is also a serious response to some issues that are being raised by secular filmmakers. Issues that just happen to also be addressed in our Scriptures, too. So, we look at the film (if you want to). And in the messages, I'll help us think about some of the Biblical issues that are being raised, and open the door to some conversation about that. We always make a point not to 'trash' a film, respecting the art and integrity that goes into their making.

Having said all that, there are a couple things that will make this year's series a bit different. First of all, we're only doing three films this year. Another is that there's a

'theme' of sorts - i.e., all three films are either documentaries or about real people. They all tell the stories of people who have made an impact on the world either in a positive or negative way (and in one case, while completely unaware!).

Another addition is that on the Wednesday after each film, we'll get together, pop some corn, and have a 'round table' discussion. All you film buffs - here's your chance! See you at the movies!

- Jan 11/12 “**Searching for Sugarman**”
- Jan 18/19 “**42 - The Jackie Robinson Story**”
- Jan 25/26 “**The Queen of Versailles**”



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Jan. 1st  | New Year's Day - church office closed    |
| Jan. 3rd  | Grounds for Good - 8:00 - 11:00 pm       |
| Jan. 8th  | Sing-Along at Mt. Laurel Ctr. - 10:30 am |
| Jan. 11th | District Day of Learning                 |
| Jan. 13th | Miriam Circle - 7:30 pm                  |
| Jan. 15th | Internat'l Women's Friendship Grp-10am   |
| Jan. 18th | Adult Fellowship - Noon                  |
| Jan. 19th | Men's Breakfast - 7:45 am                |
| Jan. 19th | Light Harbor at Mt. Laurel Ctr. -2:30 pm |
| Jan. 20th | M.L. King Day - church office closed     |
| Jan. 23rd | Elder Care seminar                       |
| Jan. 28th | Crafts for Good - 7:00 - 8:30 pm         |



FROM PASTOR STEVE

I came across a blog recently which seemed to me to be worth passing along... The writer is *Kevin DeYoung*, (“*Who Do You Say That I Am?*” from his *DeYoung, Restless, and Reformed* blog (posted 6-10-09))

\*\*\*

The greatness of God is most clearly displayed in his Son. And the glory of the gospel is only made evident in his Son. That's why Jesus' question to his disciples [in Matthew 16] is so important: “Who do you say that I am?”

The question is doubly crucial in our day, because [no one is as popular in the U.S. as Jesus] - and not every Jesus is the real Jesus. ...

There's the *Republican Jesus* - who is against tax increases and activist judges, for family values and owning firearms.

There's *Democrat Jesus* - who is against Wall Street and Wal-Mart, for reducing our carbon footprint and printing money.

There's *Therapist Jesus* - who helps us cope with life's problems, heals our past, tells us how valuable we are and not to be so hard on ourselves.

There's *Starbucks Jesus* - who drinks fair trade coffee, loves spiritual conversations, drives a hybrid, and goes to film festivals.

There's *Open-minded Jesus* - who loves everyone all the time no matter what (except for people who are not as open-minded as you).

There's *Touchdown Jesus* - who helps athletes run faster and jump higher than non-Christians and determines the outcomes of Super Bowls.

There's *Hippie Jesus* - who teaches everyone to give peace a chance, imagines a world without religion, and helps us remember that “all you need is love.”

There's *Spirituality Jesus* - who hates religion, churches, pastors, priests, and doctrine, and would rather have people out in nature, finding “the god within” while listening to ambiguously spiritual music.

There's *Platitude Jesus* - good for Christmas specials, greeting cards, and bad sermons, inspiring people to believe in themselves.

There's *Revolutionary Jesus* - who teaches us to rebel against the status quo, stick it to the man, and blame things on “the system.”

There's *Guru Jesus* - a wise, inspirational teacher who believes in you and helps you find your center.

There's *Good Example Jesus* - who shows you how to help people, change the planet, and become a better you.

And then there's Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. Not just another prophet. Not just another Rabbi. Not just another wonder-worker. He was the one they had been waiting for: the Son of David and Abraham's chosen seed; the one to deliver us from captivity; the goal of the Mosaic law; Yahweh in the flesh; the one to establish God's reign and rule; the one to heal the sick, give sight to the blind, freedom to the prisoners and proclaim Good News to the poor; the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world.

This Jesus was the Creator come to earth and the beginning of a New Creation. He embodied the covenant, fulfilled the commandments, and reversed the curse. This Jesus is the Christ that God spoke of to the Serpent; the Christ prefigured to Noah in the flood; the Christ promised to Abraham; the Christ prophesied through Balaam before the Moabites; the Christ guaranteed to Moses before he died; the Christ promised to David when he was king; the Christ revealed to Isaiah as a Suffering Servant; the Christ predicted through the Prophets and prepared for through John the Baptist.

This Christ is not a reflection of the current mood or the projection of our own desires. He is our Lord and God. He is the Father's Son, Savior of the world, and substitute for our sins - more loving, more holy, and more wonderfully terrifying than we ever thought possible.

\*\*\*

May God grant us deeper knowledge of the real Jesus in 2014!

Blessings  
Pastor Steve

#### 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.*



FROM THE DIRECTOR  
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2*

As we enter into the New Year I truly hope that you take into consideration the generous gift that was offered in the form of a *Little Child born in Bethlehem* and hold tightly to His love and grace. It is so easy to go back to our “comfort” zones and lose sight of the miracle of Christmas but God wants more from us. He desires for us to get to know his Son and to learn from and through him.

Jesus did not give up his life without purpose but instead he gave it up so we could be free; free of guilt, free of blame, free from the bondage of sin and free to love. So “*let us run with perseverance the race that is marked out for us*” and spread the Good News the Jesus is Alive and waiting for us to join Him “*at the right hand of the throne of God.*”

~Grace & Peace to you and yours in 2014~  
Sincerely,  
Karen Murray, DCE  
856-222-1120 / [education@meetwithGod.com](mailto:education@meetwithGod.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

**EDUCATION DEPARTMENT INFORMATION:**

**Sunday School** is offered for all ages during our 9:30 & 11:00 Worship hours. All are welcome!

**Thursday Afternoon Youth Group** to resume on January 9th. This program is offered to all children ages 5 years old through 6th grade. Young Followers (5 years old through 1st grade) meet for dinner at 4:30 in Fellowship Hall while the CHUM (grades 2&3) and CTB (grades 4th-6th) meet for choir. At 5:15 the Young Followers go to choir and the CHUM and CTB's come to Fellowship Hall for dinner. At 5:45 all three groups go to their classrooms for Fun & Fellowship. If you are interested in participating or volunteering, please contact Karen Murray, DCE.

**WINTER MISSION ADVENTURE** - Our annual “*Winter Mission Adventure*” begins on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> and will support *Bloom Africa* a non-profit organization that was established in 2010 by Moorestown High School graduate, Andrew Steele. We have supported this program in the past and have seen tremendous results in the education and overall health to the children in Lesotho, Africa. To learn more about *Bloom Africa* visit their website at [www.BloomAfrica.org](http://www.BloomAfrica.org). We will also be collecting “*Coins for Cancer*” during this the month of February to donate to Erin Talbot's organization in memory of her sister. The “*Winter Mission Adventure*” will conclude on Sunday March 2, 2014. A complete list of what to bring to church each week will be distributed on January 5<sup>th</sup> and printed each week in the Bulletin Insert.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Baptisms:**

Morlee Katherine Sell  
on Dec. 1, 2013; daughter of  
Doug & Katie Sell, granddaughter  
of Doug & Candy Sell and Jack &  
Sherry Evans

Cameron Harper Campbell &  
Christopher George Campbell  
on Dec. 1, 2013; daughter & son of  
Paul & Christine Campbell

**WEBSITE HELP NEEDED!**

The web team is exploring moving the church's website, MeetwithGod.com, to WordPress. If you are familiar with WordPress and willing to work with the web team or if you are interested in learning about WordPress, please contact Deb Irwin at 856-234-2335 or [Debirwin@comcast.net](mailto:Debirwin@comcast.net)



**LAY LEADER LINES**

Happy New Year! How many people have asked if you have made New Year's Resolutions? While reading about this topic, one of the things that made an impression on me was this quote by Zig Ziglar, who is a well-known writer on the subject of motivation: "No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending."

As believers in Jesus, maybe it is more about asking the Lord to help us each day. Psalm 37, parts of verses 5 and 6 encourage us to "commit your way to the Lord, and He will make our righteousness shine like the dawn."

Growing up, I remember writing down three resolutions each January, determined to stick to them throughout the year. It seemed like they were always forgotten by February! Looking back, I realize now that they were my goals, with little or no time spent in praying about them beforehand.

Our lives can be filled with hope and peace if we prayerfully remember the words from Philippians 4:13 "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

I would like to share this prayer with you: "Lord, let this year be filled with the things that are truly good, with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help, and the humility and openness to accept help from others." (Anon).

My prayer for you, and for me, is to take time each day to listen to our Savior. We know that He will lead us!

God bless you all this New Year!

Kathy Appleton  
Associate Lay Leader

**CRAFTS FOR GOOD**

A new group is forming to make crafts to give to various charities. First meeting will be Tuesday, January 28 from 7-8:30 in Room E204. Each month we will make a craft to be collected and sent to people in need. Please come to our first meeting and bring your ideas for projects. No crafting or sewing experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn and share. And if you have a skill you are willing to share, that would be great too. I'm hoping we can teach each other new ways to bring joy to others.

Please contact Cindy Cope for more information and to get a supply list for our first project. Call or text at 609-790-7456 or email me at cindyjo5@comcast.net.

\*\*\*\*\*



**ADULT FELLOWSHIP**

All are welcome to join us on January 18 in Fellowship Hall for some fellowship, fun, games, and lunch (the soup's on us.)

Just bring something that complements the soup, like a hearty bread, tea sandwiches, salads, or desserts along with your favorite game and your funny or amazing story.

Let Ricky & Ed Smith at 609-914-4698 or Marty Hall at 609-877-1340 know that you are coming and what delicious side dish you can bring.

We gather at 12:00 PM for socializing, 12:20 for devotions, and 12:30 PM for the covered dish luncheon. Don't forget your own place settings for the side dishes.

\*\*\*\*\*



**MIRIAM CIRCLE**

Ladies please come out and join us on Jan. 13, 2014 as we start the New Year. The program will be presented by a few people who were part of the "College Shore Mission Team". Janet Ash will lead us in devotions, the hostesses will be Jane Clark & Barbara Dapper. It is always a night of Christian Fellowship.

## DO YOU KNOW FIRST LIGHT?



## MISSIONS REVISTED 2013

WHAT is First Light? FUMC is the home of a preschool and developmental kindergarten program that fosters Christian faith while providing a child-centered and experience-based education for children from ages 2 to 5.

WHO is First Light? FUMC member, Devika Gill, is the director and she supervises a staff of 13 made up of teachers, aides and administrative support.

HOW do FUMC and First Light work together in Sharing the Love of Jesus Christ? The symbiotic relationship between our church and the preschool is fostered not just by sharing classroom space, but also by sharing the commitment to meaningful learning in a Christian environment. First Light has been successful in providing a quality program in our community and because of that, First Light has been able to help FUMC in many ways.

WHEN does First Light help FUMC? First Light does not pay rent to FUMC. Rather, First Light has made monetary donations in the past to FUMC that have totaled \$82,500. But, one of the most important, and most recent donations, was an additional \$35,000 that was earmarked to pay for the anticipated installation of air conditioning to FUMC's Fellowship Hall, which incidentally is First Light's gym! First Light is very excited about this donation and the impact it will have on all of us at FUMC.

WHERE else do we see the blessings from our First Light and FUMC partnership? First Light is constantly working to maintain a safe and challenging leaning environment. Classroom furnishings have been updated, rooms have been painted, faucets replaced, playground equipment installed and new fencing and landscaping provided for the playground area...to a tune of \$12,300 over the past few years. First Light is blessed to be able to share these with our FUMC family and will continue to do so.

Thank you for your support of First Light!

Lisa Kulp  
First Light Board Member

The team started off 2013 by adding the support of a new missionary, So Dong OK. Pastor HeyYoung met So Dong OK on her trip to China. He impressed her with his faith and dedication to bringing the teaching of Jesus to China, a country which prohibits the open worship of Christianity.

Faith Promise weekend brought inspirational presentations from two of our missionaries. Steve and Gail Quigg spoke on behalf of their Aviation Ministries in Africa. Your prayers and support have helped with the purchase and refurbishing of a supply plane that is used to bring aid and goods to people in hard to reach places like the Congo.

Closer to home, we heard from Michael Landis about his wonderful work at the Neighborhood Center in Camden which provides a caring and nurturing and safe place for the children of Camden. Many of the young children help kicked off Faith Promise Weekend with an entertaining song and dance show.

Many church members volunteered Saturday at the Neighborhood Center by replacing a floor in one of the activity rooms and working on a vegetable garden. The work was greatly appreciated.

In June, a mission trip to Peru by 20 church members was led by Pastor HeyYoung under the direction of one of our long time Missionaries Charlie Hanak. The mission trip was made possible due to a Memorial Gift from Alice Prestwich.

This summer, we continued to provide support for our youth's popular summer ASP trips and Community Outreach Project in Philadelphia.

Other projects included providing support to Hurricane Sandy Relief projects, 25 chairs for a Joy in the Harvest community center in Tanzania Africa where Lowell and Claudia Wertz are based, and over 50 coats were collected for the Neighborhood Center this fall.

In 2014, we will continue to be committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with a hurting world through our words and actions by providing support to our missionaries and community.

We are always looking for new team members and welcome any ideas anyone may have for our team.

**SPOTLIGHT ON SENIORS**  
**Our Featured Senior - Patricia Ann Gritzan**

It would be impossible to reach a certain age without having learned some basics. Just living makes us learn lessons. Some we might enjoy knowing; others, we wish we didn't have to know. Then there are those who enjoy increasing their knowledge just for the sake of making life more interesting. Such is the choice Patricia "Pattie" Gritzan has made.

Pattie was born in a hospital in Glen Ridge, N.J. (and yes, she does qualify as a senior even though she looks more than ten years younger.) She is another early riser attending the 8:30 A.M. service. Her childhood and schooling took place in Chatham Township, N.J. Her father, Randy, has a Civil Engineering Degree and worked for the Dept. of Transportation of N.J. He is 88 years old and lives in Englewood, N.J. Her mother, Beatrice, was a homemaker and a volunteer. She stayed busy by transcribing books in Braille. The family were members of the Chatham United Methodist Church and the children received their education in the Chatham Township school system. Pattie has two siblings; an older sister, Linda, living now in Newtown Square, Pa. and a younger brother, Ken, living in Pittsburgh, Pa.

In high school, Pattie earned a varsity letter by playing in four of the five sports offered - field hockey was her favorite. Her favorite subjects were Spanish and Chemistry so it would seem reasonable that she would choose these as her majors when she entered William and Mary College. By the end of her second year in college, she began questioning how she would use this knowledge to earn a living. Her mother listened as she tried to sort out her feelings. Teaching didn't seem to interest her so she started to take business courses. This led to a BA degree in Business which led to a job in banking as a commercial lending officer. There was still this love of learning. She went on to get her Master's. As time went on, it became obvious that jobs in the banking business were in jeopardy. Banks were merging. She decided to be proactive and start to prepare for another career. At the age of 38, Pattie started law school graduating at the age of 41. She has been able to combine her education in business and law working with corporations and securities. At present, she is working part time at a law firm in Phila. deciding what to do next - retirement or another career. Part of this planning was downsizing her living quarters. One year ago, she moved into another home in Cherry Hill and one that will meet her needs as she gets older. Any home requires living in it awhile to see what changes are needed to meet the needs of the new owner. A workman was there the day of the interview making some of those changes. The interview took

place in the kitchen where her cat, "Big Boy" joined us. Big Boy looks small enough to be a kitten but Pattie says he is much older but is her "Big Boy". Gardening is one of Pattie's hobbies and when she purchased the home, some of the growth in the yard had gotten out of hand. She got carried away cutting down some trees outside the kitchen window only to find out later that they were fig trees. They are growing back. There was so much to do involving moving that gardening this year was put on the back burner. Instead, she joined a food co-operative receiving a box of fruit and vegetables each month. She has learned to prepare many different and unusual foods. Cooking is another one of her hobbies.

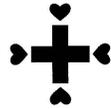
Pattie's mother had brain cancer and was at home with hospice care. She waited until all 3 of her children were at her bedside before she died at the age of 70. Her last words to Pattie were "Good Night Pattie" which was miraculous since her mother had been unable to speak for several months. She left an important and lasting legacy for her children - a love of learning and strong faith.

Pattie's brother's son and only child died at the age of 16, also of cancer. Both her mother and her nephew taught Pattie how to face her own serious health issue - a diagnosis of cancer four years ago. She is doing good with no recurrence of the cancer. Pattie always knew she was loved but her illness showed her just how much she is loved. Her sister, without hesitation, dropped everything to be there with her; her brother came from Pittsburgh to go with her each time she had chemo. Her secretary brought her lunch each time she had chemo. Neighbors brought food and drove her to Phila. for her treatments. All were such a blessing!! It is during these difficult times that we grow in our Faith. God is good.

Pattie has been a member of FUMC for about ten years. She is thinking about working with seniors by studying Elder Law. She is also taking courses at Palmer Seminary to help deepen her spirituality. It is hoped that as Pattie shares her knowledge and experiences with the congregation that we will be eager to continue to learn too.

When she wasn't studying, she did find time to plant an above ground herb garden this year. She enjoys reading and used to enjoy sewing before it became so expensive that it hardly pays. Vacations are usually spent in the New England area - Cape Cod, and coastal areas in Maine are favorites.

*Please note - there will be no Spotlight on Seniors column next month due to the difficulty in scheduling interviews in the busy month of December.*



## NURSE NOTES

Happy New Year 2014!

It's that time of year when most of us are thinking about our New Year's resolutions. The holidays have passed and we have said good-bye to the indulgence of Christmas sweets and celebrations. (At least until Super Bowl parties and Valentines Day chocolates.) Time to dust off the treadmill for many of us.

New Year's resolutions are not all about losing weight, or quitting a bad health habit. Many of us hope to make other changes in our lives. Perhaps we hope to be more organized, or manage our time more effectively. Some desire to become more involved in the community by volunteering or serving those in need. Others hope to improve their spiritual life and spend more time in prayer or daily devotions to the Lord. Some may wish to join a Bible study or church ministry.

The ultimate goal of a New Year's resolution is to improve one or more areas in our very busy lives. Perhaps we have made these resolutions in the past only to fail in a short period of time. How can we achieve success this time around?

First of all, commit your plans to the Lord and ask for His blessing and direction. Pray about your specific plans and ask for guidance and perseverance. Carefully come up with a game plan. That seems sensible enough. Coaches have game plans, teachers have lesson plans, etc. Design your own individual plan for success.

Perhaps we can find a prayer partner, or plan a specific time of day to devote to prayer. Our lives are busy, but we can carve out a special time each day to spend with God. When my oldest son was in college he was a pre-med major. His life was consumed with difficult classes, and MCAT exams, etc. He was exhausted night and day with little time for his personal spiritual needs. I told him that he could find time during his morning shower or walks to class. He developed that habit and it served him well through medical school, internship, residency and now his fellowship years. He is now married with a brand new baby girl and he has told me that he will teach his daughter the importance of finding personal time for daily prayer.

Perhaps we need a workout partner to keep us motivated and on target. It might be helpful to join a weight loss group with a friend with the same goal to provide ongoing support and encouragement. It might not seem like a burden if we walk with a neighbor and share tips for success. Plan a nutritional program for weight loss with your doctor. Find recipes for nutritious meals and share with friends.

Some of us hope to downsize our homes, or remove excess clutter from our attics and tightly crammed closets. Devise a plan for selling or giving unused items to charity. Others will benefit and the result may be a feeling of relief to have more personal space. Start with one closet, and begin one room at a time. If you haven't used an item in many years, chances are it will continue to sit in the closet or garage. Donate it to someone in need.

Many of us have personal talents that have long been forgotten since the arrival of our children. Some of us have personal desires, things we would like to do if we had the time. Why not try to dust off the piano, or sign up for a painting class? I would like to learn Italian and have been putting it off far too long. It's never to late to learn something new. You just need a plan!

Since I am a "list person" I try to stay organized with a daily "to do" list. I keep calendars everywhere. I hate to admit it but I am lost without my lists and calendars to keep me organized. I bought notebooks to keep track of various things that are important to me...daily devotions, weight loss, nutrition and exercise, etc. Perhaps I should buy one for Italian classes in the spring.

Develop your own sense of organizational style and establish a plan to achieve your New Year's resolutions. Commit your plans to the Lord.

Wishing you success, good health, joyous blessings and new adventures in 2014!

Bonnee Noyes-Bongiorno  
Parish Nurse