



The Messenger

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

Rev. Richard Nichols, Pastor
Glenn Rodgers, Director of Music
Kathy Clawges, Director of Youth
Devika Gill, Director of First Light Learning Center

Rev. HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor
Karen Murray, Director of Christian Education
Bonnee Noyes-Bongiorno Parish Nurse

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

JULY 2014

INTRODUCING OUR NEW SENIOR PASTOR!

Richard Nichols grew up in South Jersey near Bridgeton. After graduating from Bridgeton High School, he attended Asbury College in Wilmore, KY, where he majored in psychology. At Asbury he met his wife, Joanna, who was an elementary education major. Richard and Joanna were married in 1975 and Richard then attended Asbury Theological Seminary and received his MDiv degree. Richard has served churches in Port Republic, Sea Isle City, Neptune, and Hazlet as well as serving as District Superintendent for the past 6 years on the Delaware Bay District.

Richard and Joanna have 3 children; Richard, Karen and Amanda, and 5 grandchildren. His son, Rich and his wife, Rebecca served as missionaries in Brazil for 8 years and are now living in Richard's childhood home. Rich serves as the coordinator of the Family Strengthening Network in Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland Counties. Karen is married to Nam and lives in Emmaus, PA where Nam works as a Physicians Assistant. Karen was an art major in college and keeps busy with two young children. Amanda and her husband, Bobby, are serving as missionaries in Honduras.

Richard's interests include gardening, golf, and sports (especially the Phillies). Joanna enjoys sewing, volunteering in the community, and of course, being with the grandchildren. Richard and Joanna are looking forward to getting to know the people of First United Methodist in Moorestown and serving in ministry together.

We are happy to welcome Richard and Joanna to Moorestown and to the 1st UMC family!



BLOOD DRIVE Tuesday, July 1st

The Red Cross will host a blood drive in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, July 1st from 1:30 until 6:30 p.m. Donors will receive a t-shirt and be eligible to win a \$100 American Express gift card. To schedule an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org or contact Ashley at Ashley.concilio-regan@redcross.org.

COOL AIR MINISTRY



Just a reminder - should you get caught unexpectedly without cool air, or know of someone in need, please call the Cool Air Ministry. Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated, and don't forget your sunscreen! Contact person: Elmine van den Berg, 856-778-3197.

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Jul. 1st | Pastor Nichols' first day at FUMC |
| Jul. 1st | Blood Drive - 1:30 - 6:30 pm |
| Jul. 2nd | Summer Youth program begins - 6-8 pm |
| Jul. 2nd | Sing-Along at Mt. Laurel Ctr. - 10:30 am |
| Jul. 4th | Independence Day - church office closed |
| Jul. 6th | Summer Sunday School begins - 9:30 am |
| Jul. 13-18 | Philadelphia Project mission trip |
| Jul. 16th | Internat'l Women's Friendship Grp-10 am |
| Jul. 20-27 | Host IHN |
| Jul. 23-27 | Habitat for Humanity mission trip |
| Jul. 29th | VBS Training - 11:00 am & 7:00 pm |



GREETINGS FROM THE PASTORAL TRANSITION TEAM!

In the spirit of all of us getting to know *Pastor Richard Nichols and his wife, Joanna* a little better and for them to learn a bit about us, there will be several “**Meet & Greet**” opportunities over the next few months. One of those opportunities comes in the form of *group-gatherings*. The hope is that people from nearby areas will invite others from their community to enjoy a brief time of fellowship with the pastor and his wife in their home.

If you are interested in being a host, please review the following:

- Sign up forms will be placed on the board in the Narthex with specific times and dates that Pastor is available. (This will occur over several months.)
- Each group may number from 10-18 people depending on the preference of the host. Some events may be hosted in individual homes, while others may be hosted at the church (childcare provided).
- The gatherings should be between 1 and 2 hours in length depending on the number of people. At each gathering, folks are welcome to coordinate with the hosts as to what beverages, desserts and/or snacks to bring. The meetings are not intended to be full meals.
- Each host will be given a paper with suggested questions and conversation topics to help keep the gathering focused.
- Each host will also be given a 'sign-in' sheet that is to be returned to Karen Halligan, in the church office, as soon as possible.
- If you would like to host but are unsure about how to go about it there will be a “*Host/Group Leaders*” training session scheduled on **Monday, June 30th at 7pm in the Church Parlor**, or you may attend one of the “Meet & Greets” first and then plan to host one.
- For more information, contact Karen Murray at 856-222-1120 or via e-mail, education@meetwithGod.com. Thank you!

ALSO NEEDED

We are putting together a short-term committee to provide light refreshments (Iced Tea, Lemonade & Cookies) after each Worship Service the first 2 weekends in July. If you would like to volunteer to be the primary contact person for this opportunity, please contact Joan Flamini, in the church office at 856-235-0450

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

To anyone who generously put a check in one of the special “Love Offering” envelopes in honor of Pastor Steve & Dianna the weekend of June 7/8, but did not write your name on the envelope: due to an unfortunate oversight, no names were written on the envelopes before the checks were deposited, so we have no way to know who gave those checks. Therefore, we are unable to record those gifts on your contribution record or include them on your giving statements. Please use your canceled check as your receipt for tax purposes. We sincerely apologize for the error, and any inconvenience this causes.

CHURCH DIRECTORY TO BE UPDATED

It's time once again to update our annual Church Directory of members & friends. If your directory information - address, phone number, last name, etc. - has changed recently and you haven't notified the church office, or if you plan on moving in the near future and know your new address and/or phone number, please let us know so that you can be listed correctly. To update your information, contact Karen Halligan, 856-235-0450 or church@meetwithGod.com, or mail it to her attention at the church. The deadline for submitting your information is Monday, July 21, so that the new directory can be available by early August. *Please note that this is **not** the Photo Directory, just the listing of names, addresses & phone numbers.* Thank you!



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

“What is the one thing that brings you the most joy?
Thank God for it now.”

So what was the first thing that you thought of? Was it family, friends, a job, this church, the beautiful outdoors, music, breath or the knowledge that God loves you in spite of your flaws?

All of those answers can and should bring joy to our life but there is no REAL joy until we acknowledge the sacrifice that Christ made for each of us when he died on the cross and rose again.

From Acts 2: 22 - 28

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

David said about him:

‘I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope,

because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. You have made known to me the paths of life;

***you will fill me with joy in your presence.**”*

Remain in God's presence by claiming Jesus as your Lord and continue to seek the path that he has for your life and you will find JOY.

King David did not have an easy life. Some of his choices led to very dark consequences and pulled him away from God but he continued to seek God's face and in that seeking he knew God was with him. He found the joy that God offered when he replaced self-gain with “God-gain” and repented. Through that repentance he was able to repair his relationship with God and accept the love God offered.

We too can have that joy and feel that love when we put our own self-gain aside and seek “God-gain” through

Jesus Christ. His life had meaning and purpose and so does ours.

Looking again at the above question “What brings you the most joy?” my answer would be “knowing I am loved and in a relationship with the God of creation through His son, Jesus Christ and everyday I get to worship Him. That is MY JOY!” What is yours?

Continue to seek His JOY!

~Karen Murray, DCE

July 6th - August 17th Summer Sunday School begins at 9:30 for children ages 4 - 2nd grade. (All Adult classes will continue.)

July 29th 11:00am & 7:00pm - VBS Staff Training. ALL Volunteers are asked to attend either of these meetings to receive your VBS packets.

Prayer & Pilates Mondays at 5:30 & 7:00pm & Wednesdays at 5:30.

Baptisms:

Liliana Mae Donia & Luka Anthony Donia on May 25, 2014; daughter & son of Anthony & Nicole Donia

Adrian Jude Duva on May 25, 2014; son of Angelo & Kathleen Duva

Gabriella Sophia Cepparulo on June 1, 2014; daughter of Anthony & Tracy Cepparulo

Anne Elizabeth Bongiorno on June 8, 2014; daughter of Charles & Beverly Bongiorno

Bethany Jane Epstein on June 8, 2014; daughter of Brian & Dawn Epstein



LAY LEADER LINES

Summertime - vacations, cookouts, swimming, a time to take life a bit easier.

July 4th - a holiday that probably brings so many memories to each of us.

Remembering the excitement of a July 4th parade as a child, one of my favorite photos is of a 4-year old girl, sitting on her dad's lap on the curb on Main Street, waiting for the parade to begin (there honestly was a Main Street in our hometown!) The floats were a favorite, with each year focusing on a different aspect of patriotism.

Doing a bit of internet research, I found a list of July 4th themes, from 1986 through 2014. Some of my favorites include "Hats off to America" (2006), "America the Beautiful" (2002), and "Celebrating the American Dream" (2011).

As we celebrate our nation's birthday, maybe we can reflect on, and acknowledge, those who have given their lives and their strength to keep our country free. We have much to be thankful for, in the USA. We can also reflect on what it means to be a citizen of heaven. Philippians 3:20 tells us that our citizenship is in heaven. 2nd Corinthians 3:17 reassures us that "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

Reading a prayer for Independence Day by Mary Fairchild, a Christian writer and missionary, was inspiring to me. Let me share some of this prayer with you:

On this Independence Day, I am reminded of all those who have sacrificed for my freedom, following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ. Let me not take my freedom, both physical and spiritual, for granted. Lord, bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for my freedom. Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone else's life today, and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found in knowing Christ.

God bless you all this summer, and God bless our country.

Kathy Appleton, Associate Lay Leader



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MISSIONS COMMISSION

Thank you for the warm FUMC welcome extended to our guest missionaries throughout Faith Promise Weekend in early May. John and Maritza Hernandez (Children's Impact Network) and Eric and Donna Shrift (CrossWorld) were grateful for an opportunity to share the good news of their ministries and thank FUMC for over 20 years of financial support. They have made a significant impact on the lives and faith of peoples far from Moorestown due in part to our Faith Promise giving.

Over \$53,000 of Faith Promise pledges were received. Remember the Faith Promise is between you and God and so was made anonymously. Therefore, you will not receive a statement reminding you of the pledge made. Please keep the promise made so we can continue our monthly support to all of our missionaries.

The Hernandez' and Shrifts gave testimony of how long term support from FUMC has had an impact on our hurting world. It takes years to break down barriers and become accepted by those in need of God's love. We recently received exciting news from Rev. Roger Porquillo in the Philippines regarding his ministry that we have supported since 1989. This past March, Rev. Porquillo's mission was officially recognized as an organized local church under the Northwest Mindinao Philippines Annual Conference. This is the first local church in the Conference whose members are indigenous peoples belonging to tribal communities. It is through long term support from congregations like ours that faithful stewards like Rev. Porquillo witness dreams become reality. AMEN!

Beth Davies
Missions Commission



"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'"

Isaiah 52:7

SPOTLIGHT ON SENIORS

Our Featured Senior - John Edward Feeley

Have you planned for your retirement? This does not mean only a financial plan, but also a way to spend all that extra time in a productive healthy way. It should not be thought of as a prolonged vacation. Wives have been known to say "I married you for richer or poorer but not for lunch". John Feeley has another way of putting it; "observe nature, if animals lay too still for too long, the birds start hovering above." We are meant to stay interested and moving. He also commented that too much togetherness can wear thin on a relationship. Everyone needs some space or private time. He and Janet have arrived at the balance necessary to make retirement pleasurable for both.

John, "Jack as we know him", was born in Newton, Mass. (that New England accent is still there). His father was a machinist; his mother worked for Raytheon making electron vacuum tubes for radios. He has three siblings still living; Fred, William and Blanche. His sister, Jean is deceased. The family attended St. Mary's Catholic Church. The family was hit hard by the Depression. His father lost his job. He took a job with the WPA (a government sponsored work program). Unemployment checks were non-existent. The children were educated in the Newton school system. Jack's favorite subject was Math. He liked math because there is only one right answer. In reading, there can be one or more interpretations depending on the reader's experiences. He played basketball and was a caddie for the golfers while in high school. Tuesdays were special days for the caddies. They could play golf. When the adult golfers would get new clubs, they would give the old ones to their caddie.

Following graduation from high school, Jack served four years in the Navy aboard the aircraft carrier USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. He went on to get a degree in mechanical engineering at Northeastern University in Boston. Some buddies invited him to go with them to a Methodist Church in 1955. There he was cast in a play. He began to date a girl in that church group, but there was a problem. He really liked that girl's best friend, Janet. Jack and Janet's first date was a ride in his truck. It wasn't long before they were discussing marriage. Jack shared their wedding plans with his mother. The wedding would be in the Carter Memorial United Methodist Church in Needham, Mass. Her comment was "You will have to tell your father, I'm not going to". (His father was strict Irish Catholic). Surprisingly when told, his father responded "What makes you think I would not be there?" Jack then asked "What about the rest of the family?" His father said, "They will be there as we are family". Janet and Jack had a formal

wedding and a honeymoon at Niagara Falls. Twelve couples in that church group married and many still stay in touch. Jack was earning \$1.15 an hour before his marriage. When he told his employer that he was getting married, it was increased to \$1.25. Jack's degree led to a job with Raytheon and then RCA. It was the job with RCA that brought them to N.J. and Moorestown. They began shopping for a church. They walked into FUMC and were greeted by the congregation singing "How Great Thou Art"; decision made! Janet worked at Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. They have 3 children; Susan, Doanda (Dodie), and John; 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Another member of their family is "Patches", a beautiful black and white cat (this cat's black fur has such a sheen to it). Patches was not always beautiful. Jack and Janet were driving on a busy road with a couple of their grandchildren when they spotted a cat in the middle of the road. They stopped the car; Janet got out and moved the cat to the side of the road; then she got back in the car and they started to drive off. The grandchildren asked "What if the cat goes back in the road?" After turning the car around, picking up the forlorn dirty cat, and an expensive trip to the Vet, Janet and Jack had a pet they named Patches. Samantha, their granddaughter, got an A on an essay written about how they saved the cat.

Life during their 57 year marriage has not been without some health issues. Janet had been hospitalized several times for a coughing problem that went undiagnosed. Jack started to imagine the worse case scenarios. When she became ill again, he made arrangements to get a second opinion at Deborah Hospital. It was there that they diagnosed her with sarcoidosis, a treatable disease of the lung. Pastor Steve rode his motorcycle to Deborah in miserable weather to be with them. Jack also had a scare when he became critically ill from a Babesia species tick bite. The disease causes symptoms similar to malaria. It was necessary for him to have blood transfusions.

A favorite vacation spot for Janet and Jack is Ocean City although they have traveled to the National Parks, Maui, Alaska, England, Scotland, and their favorite, Italy.

In his younger years, Jack was involved with the Cub Scouts and coached little league sports. He stays busy now by volunteering and ushering at church. He's been a member of FUMC since 1983. He has been president of the bowling league, is a Mason, and still enjoys playing golf and reading. He and Bill Potter have a handyman business doing electrical, plumbing, and other fix-up projects for an affordable rate. They have planned well for using their time productively in retirement.

**REPORT ON THE GREATER NJ
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
May 29-31, 2014**

More than 1,500 people attended the conference - a record number for Greater New Jersey. Approximately 200 people participated on Wednesday (May 28th) in mission projects with "Stop the Hunger Now" and "A Future with Hope". More than 40,000 packets of food were packed to ship to the developing world, and two playhouses were built for families with young children who lost their homes during Superstorm Sandy. More than 100 people attended eight workshops, also on Wednesday, covering topics that included engaging young people, creating inspiring worship, and growing mission.

Key legislation passed includes agreement to explore and expand our mission partnerships to Thailand and Nepal, resolutions to make a stand against poverty in Greater New Jersey, and the creation of a Strategic Disciple Making fund to start new congregations and faith communities. The 2015 budget also was passed.

Four churches in our district were closed this year: Barnegat UMC, Finesville UMC, Goshen Park UMC, and Highland Park UMC.

Leadership:

The number of vital congregations has increased from 14% to 31%.

More than 40% of churches are growing in worship attendance.

14,500 Greater New Jersey United Methodists participated in mission.

10% more young adults are participating in small groups.

The conference budget and shared ministry will not increase in 2015.

The Connectional Table was formed to serve to align committees and agencies.

The focus of the efforts is on the local church. District Superintendents have been challenged to become missional strategists for our local churches and work in teams with the new Connectional Ministries staff.

Eight clergy members were ordained into the Order of Elders. Ten provisional clergy were commissioned as Provisional Members. A new clergy was received into Full Membership in our conference.

"A Future with Hope" ministry has repaired 42 homes, hosted more than 6,100 volunteers, and set up 14 host sites. An additional 100 homes are scheduled to be completed in 2015.

A conference highlight was the "Act of Repentance" for Native Americans in our Conference. Elements included a Native American celebration during opening worship.

The fellowship included music by Mark Miller and the Festival Choir.

In Bishop Schol's inspirational address, he laid out the work that is yet to be done, including the challenges facing the United Methodist Church:

Leadership - including growing more lay leaders and disciples.

Spiritual Adaption - adapting our communication, worship and witnessing in the world. Our number one adaptive challenge is growing our congregations so that the people in the pews look like the people in our communities.

Unity - United Methodists have not been able to find a Christ-like path forward on homosexuality. The Bishop pledged to lead to:

Build bridges among our differences, and to our future.

Discover the gift of unity that is deeper than our differences.

Claim grace as our enduring value, guiding us in our conversations and decisions.

Lead so that theological differences will not impede the mission of the church.

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world must be our core value, so we can stir up faith, hope, and justice.

It is always a blessing to fellowship with Christian believers, and to feel energized in being a small part of growing our congregation. We are grateful for this opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Appleton
Bobbie Shinehouse