



The Vine

Happy New Year!!

As the calendar turns another year, I can look forward to turning 52 in 2014. Ever since I turned 50, back in 2012, I have been amazed at the persistence. Not my persistence, but the persistence of AARP. I have gotten offers to join, offers for life insurance, offers for car insurance discounts, all kinds of things. From all of the attention that I have been getting from them, if I didn't know any better, I would say that they really want me. There must be something about me that they need as a part of their organization. They tell me this at least once a month. Somehow I don't think they will quit until I have drawn my final breath. And with the length of time it takes to clear out data files, who knows, they may continue after that! Persistence. Persistence. Persistence.

As I think about persistence, I can't help but think about God's prevenient grace. It is the same kind of persistence that AARP has. It is a persistence that says I really want you as a part of my family. It is the persistence of God that pursues us, even when we keep saying, "No." I am glad that God has not given up on us, nor will he ever give up on us, until our final breath. God's grace pursues us moment after moment. God wants us to know him, to grow in him, and to know his saving grace that is ours through Jesus. Yes, I am thankful for God's persistence that does not give up on us.



Then I can't help but think about my own persistence. Who have I given up on? With whom have I not shared my faith with when given an opportunity? Who have I not invited to church when the door to do so was opened? Who have I not forgiven when I have been wronged? Who have I written off? How much more full would the Kingdom of God be if only we were so persistent.....

Inviting you to consider,

Pastor Doug

Mission Opportunity

We will meet on Saturday January 25, 2014 at 10 AM to travel to the Camden Neighborhood Center to serve lunch. Plan to come and join us as we share God's love with our neighbors in Camden.

Confirmation Class will begin on Thursday night, January 2 at 7:00 pm and we will meet a couple of times per month. We will meet in the Youth Room for an Orientation meeting. All youth 7th grade and up who have not joined the church are invited to come and find out what it's all about, ask questions, etc. Parents should come to the first meeting where we will fill out forms, explain the class, go over the calendar, etc. Once again we will be joined by youth from New Sharon and Wenonah UMC's. Confirmation is a class that meets to learn what membership in the UMC is all about. At the end of the class, the youth will have an opportunity to decide if they would like to join the church as members. Please e-mail or call Pastor Doug if you are planning on coming to the class — 856-468-2711 or pastordoug@mantuaumc.org.



Friday
January 17th
7:30pm
Free Admission
Free Coffee,
Tea,
Baked Goods!



"In a world with so many negative influences,
Chelsea encourages her audience to stay
true to who they are and not to conform
to the world's standards."

Mantua United Methodist Church
201 Mantua Blvd. Mantua, NJ 08051
856-468-2711.
Check out www.mantuaumc.org for more info or email mamakreh@gmail.com

Donations of Baked Goods Gratefully Accepted. Call Maria if you can help.

Upcoming Dates!

One of Six

February 21, 2014

Dana Isles &

Facedown

March 21, 2014

Headstone 118

April 11, 2014

Above the Fall

May 16, 2014

United Methodist Men News



The United Methodist Men will be resurrecting one of our ministries as we look for opportunities to serve our congregation. Saturday, January 18th we will be doing small home repairs and projects for our elderly members as well as those in need. If there is something that we can do for you. Contact Greg Miller, Tom Beckett or alert the office.



Chili Cookoff The United Methodist Men of Mantua will host a chili contest/dinner on February 15th at 6:00 pm. This will be a men's event and an opportunity to gather for fellowship, food and fun. There will be a competition for the best recipe and lots of good food to eat. Other congregations will be participating as well. Come out and support the men's ministry here in Mantua! Please see or contact Keith Wyckoff if you have any questions: 856-537-7656

HOAGIE SALE JANUARY 19, 2014

Sponsored by the United Methodist Men
To benefit Church Programs

The United Methodist Men will sponsor a hoagie sale with delivery on January 19, 2014. Place your hoagie orders on December 29, January 5, and January 12. Cost is \$4 each, for either Italian or American. Hoagies will be delivered on January 19 during social hour in McConnell Hall. Hoagies will come from Woodbury Cold Cuts, voted Best Hoagie in South Jersey 2012 by South Jersey Magazine.

(order form, cut out and give to UMM Rep)

HOAGIE SALE JANUARY 19, 2014

YOUR NAME: _____

Number of Italian Hoagies _____ x \$4 each = \$ _____

Number of American Hoagies _____ x \$4 each = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Pick up between services in McConnell Hall during social hour.

<p style="text-align: center;">SMITH FUNERAL HOME</p> <p style="text-align: center;">47 Main St. Mantua, NJ 08051</p> <p>Robert C. Smith III CFSP, CPC NJ Lic. No. 3161</p> <p>Daniel N. Smith, Sr. Manager NJ Lic. No. 3263</p> <p>Douglas W. Wagner NJ Lic. No. 4378</p> <p>Daniel N. Smith, Jr. NJ Lic. No. 4684</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Robert C. Smith, Jr. 1921-2003 (856) 468-0670</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.smithfhmantua.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Let us answer your questions about funerals, cremations & pre-planning.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nester & Wyckoff</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">General Dentistry For The Entire Family</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">200 East Mantua Avenue • Wenonah NJ 08090 856-468-5858 • 856-468-9098 fax southjerseydental.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">MAYTAG FRIGIDAIRE WESTINGHOUSE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Woodbury Appliance, Inc.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">753 Mantua Pike Woodbury, New Jersey 08096</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Kitchen Aid Magic Chef</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Phone: 845-3710 Sales & Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Amana TAPPAN JEN-AIR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS. THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO THANK THEM!</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Tuesday - Thursday 10-8 Friday 10-6 • Saturday 9-4</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-large;"><i>Aim To Please</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">• Beauty Salon •</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">256-1710 9 North Broadway Pitman, New Jersey 08071</p>		<p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Shute's Enterprise (856) 456-2675</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BAT - A - RAMA</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">600 Gateway Blvd. (Rt. 45) Westville, NJ 08095 Indoor Batting Range & Pro Shop Baseball & Softball Camps, Clinics Private Lessons</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">George Arlene</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">bat-a-rama.com</p>	

January 2014 Mantua Methodist Vine

By William M. Crowley, Educational Research Director

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV), "Study to show thyself approved unto GOD..."

This exciting, unending series researches the KJV Bible with other sources.

A Congregation member submitted this question:

WHEN DOES GOD'S PATIENCE END?

The very familiar Old Testament documentations of The Great Flood, the Assyrian conquest, and David's punishment are examples. In my opinion, a fine example of HIS wrath when HIS patience ended begins with the infamous epic of:

SODOM AND GOMORRAH (SODOM)!!!

GOD came down in person to inspect the detestable practices of Sodom and Gomorrah. HE visited Abraham prior to his inspection. The evidence of HIS presence is given in (NRSV) Genesis 18:13-14 when GOD responded to Sarah's laughter, "The LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh...Is anything too wonderful for the LORD?'" The situation's depravity required the LORD's personal visit. HE who knows all came in person to deliver the punishment...as will Jesus. Chaos will be the rule for those not saved on the Day of Judgment. Be prepared!!!

THE PHYSICAL SITUATION

Some opinions deny The Vale (Valley) of Siddim's Seismic Faults involvement in the final destruction. The Valley is sitting on a potential cauldron of asphalt (slime in the Bible), sulfur and salt: a real potpourri for disaster. The area's history is ridden with earthquakes.

THE EVENT

(NRSV) Genesis 19:24-25, "Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of Heaven; and HE overthrew those cities, and all the Plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground." A catastrophe of the first order!!!

Sulfur and fire---burning sulfur with its horribly, suffocating and strangling fumes, the fire of the flaming oil-rich black-fuming asphalt raining down sticking to human flesh, gigantic earth eruptions toppling all traces of civilization--- the fury of our LORD obliterating Sodom and Gomorrah forever.

(NRSV) Genesis 19:28, "...and he (Abraham) looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah... and saw the smoke of the land going up like the smoke of a furnace."

ADD A LITTLE SALT

(NRSV) Genesis 19:26, "But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt." The Arabs call the Great Salt Mass in the Valley the "Mountain of Sodom". Salt melts @ 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. To come down and cover Lot's wife, Biblical scholars feel the salt was in molten form. The wife was enveloped in a liquid, fiery agony...for disobedience. I witnessed a molten salt (1,000 degrees) accident: men, screaming in extreme pain, burning in fiery salt. Later, large fabric-like roles were swept into piles ...the "fabric" was human skin.

REMEMBER!!!

We must maintain the necessity for watchfulness. Sodom and Gomorrah were not warned. We have had many previews expressed in the Bible. The Fires of Hell are still there...and we know it. .

THE BIBLE SAYS

(NRSV) Matthew 24:36, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

(KJV) Revelation 14:11, "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day or night..." (See Genesis 19:28 above. The Fires of Hell is sin's reward.)



United Methodist Church of Mantua
**Ministering Through Video
Painless Fundraiser**

- ◆ Buy Shop Rite (\$20) Cards.
 - ◆ The Church receives 5%
- ◆ You receive gift cards dollar for dollar.
 - ◆ It costs you nothing!

Currently:

We sell approximately \$1,000 of gift cards per month.
Annually we earn about \$600.

Where does the money go? It pays for some of the equipment needs of MTV. In addition, contributions have been made to The Roof Fund, Chime Choir Repair, UMC Mission Trips and The Carpet Fund.

Goal: We have a goal of **\$1,000 per week**. This is easily achievable! If we only had 50 families that shop at Shop Rite and each family bought one card per week, that would be \$1,000. The church would earn **\$2,600 per year**.

When we meet this goal, MTV would not only be mostly self-supporting, we would also be able to make larger contributions for other church needs.

Action: LET'S DO IT!

Exchange your cash or check for Shop Rite gift cards
and go food shopping for your family or donate cards to
The Corinthian Cupboard or Family Promise!
It costs nothing but reaps great rewards!

2013 Results:

Jan-April	\$462 per week
May—August	\$487 per week

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Bruce Reyher, MTV Treasurer

Women's Community Bible Study

Women's Community Bible Study led by Pastor Gene Wilkins meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays September through May at the United Methodist Church of Mantua. Starting at 9:30 am for coffee and fellowship, with the study beginning at 10:00 am. Currently, Pastor Gene is leading a study on Biblical miracles. All are welcome. If you have any questions, contact the Church office at 468-2711 or call 468-5549.

Realville ~ during the season! Merry Christmas! We have been talking about service to friend's and family, during the month of November! Then we came into December with talk of a Christmas party, Pollyanna's and a trip to see a live manger scene.

On Saturday, Dec. 14 ~ we went the the Bethlehem Experience at the Laurel Hill Bible Church. We had 12 youth & 5 adults go to see & hear a unique & live presentation of Jesus' Birth, life & resurrection. It was full of music, Angel's, townspeople, the Manger & live animals! It was a great night together!

On Sunday we celebrated with our Christmas Party @ Barnsboro Church at 5:00 pm.

We had 26 youth come out for a Pollyanna exchange & dinner. We want to Thank some of the parents for the donated meal, drinks & desserts! We then drove the youth to Mantua for the Cantata! It was a fabulous night of friends, gifts, food & music! The Cantata was fabulous! I was thinking it could not get busier..... until the College group landed at my house for food and fellowship after the concert! We had 5 of our college ministry group over for a couple hours! I would like to Thank everyone for their patience during youth group & events! We have a very busy January & February schedule! Please keep us in prayer! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all of you! Thank you for the opportunity to work with your Church & Youth!

Love,
Penny Kirkbride



Acolyte Update

January 12—Acolytes will meet at 5:30 pm

January 26—We will go Ice Skating. The location and times will be announced.

The cost will be \$10-\$12, depending on if we go to Hollydell or the outdoor rink in Glassboro.



You are invited....
To an Open House at the parsonage
January 5
2-5 PM

Come and share with us
during this Joyful Season of
Christmas and New Year!

This is My Story.....

When Susan Fuchs gave witness of God's presence in her ordeal of getting lost in Philadelphia, she reminded me of the many occasions in my life when God was with me. Like most of us I had gotten into the mind set of doing everything on my own. I forgot that God the Father wants to be involved in all aspects of our lives. Susan's story was a wake up call for me and I'm making sure I talk with my Lord everyday. But you know how easy it is to let things distract you from your goals. We all need reminders to keep a steady course.

I know that all of us have experienced the love of God, some in big ways and some in small ways, but always the experience strengthens you. I am thinking of a column for the Vine. I believe if we share our stories, it will help us keep God in our daily lives. I am hoping you will agree with the idea and share your experiences. You can be anonymous if you're shy or be known. All you have to do is write it down and give it to our secretary, Becky Langer. I'll start.

This is My Story

By Sue Seibel

When we were young and just starting a family Walt and I bought our first home. It was perfect for us the people around us were all about our age and all children were in the same age group. We became very close.

Most of my neighbors were Catholic and were becoming involved in the Charismatic Movement. They decided to start a prayer group and asked me to join them. A woman from their church came to our first meeting to instruct us in the format to use for our prayers. Basically we started with thanks and asked God to be with us, then we offered up our prayers. Last we had a period of silent prayer where we opened our minds to God, then shared any thoughts or inspirations with the group. At the end of the session we prayed and invited Jesus into our hearts. When we were done praying I felt a strong warmth spread through me and I knew something had changed.

The group was very successful. We prayed for ourselves and soon were getting requests from friends and friends of friends. On the night of one meeting, I received a phone call from my mother, she told me my sister-in-law had contracted spinal meningitis and was not expected to live but if she lived she would probably be a vegetable. My brother, who was in the Navy, was being flown in from the Persian Gulf.

Of course our group prayed for her. During the session, where we opened ourselves to God, one of the girls in our group told us the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, had come vividly into her brain and she saw Jesus walking out of the flames carrying a person in His arms. A feeling of peace came on me and I knew she would be alright.

The next morning, my brother called to say that they had given her a broad spectrum antibiotic and packed her in ice. When she awoke she was perfectly fine. Yeah God!!

This was not a single incident. There were many answered prayers, of course not all were as we hoped but I believe that all the answers were the best. To see God at work is a wondrous thing.

Happy January Birthday!

- 1 Debra Heston
Christina Niemczura
Florence Porter
- 3 Tom Jennings
Courtney Oudyk
- 4 Gregory Brickner
- 6 Corrine Brickner
Lynda Cusano
- 7 Robbie Dickson
David Fuchs
- 8 Penny Kirkbride
- 12 Paul Brooks
Carl Kressley
Jill Salvatore
Marissa Stewart
- 13 Erica Brickner
- 14 Sarah Reed
- 15 Becky Langer
Frank Rohrman



- 16 Pearl Dickinson
Aaron Hickman
Delaney Shutman
Beth Wyatt
- 17 Emma Humble
- 19 Araya Agren
Gunnar Fox
- 20 Amber Nagtegaal
- 22 Chris Donat
- 24 Muriel Lisle
- 25 Karen Dickel
- 27 Bob Borgersen
Mark Durand
Lisa Rouh
- 28 Lynn Heiss
Robert Stetser
Margaret Trexler
- 29 Darrin Cusano
Stephanie Overton
- 31 Brandi Leach

Happy January Anniversary



- 2 *John & Janet Sfaelos*
- 4 *Mike & Jill Gorman*
- 6 *James & Mary Brickner*
- 9 *David & Nancy Pennell*
- 12 *Joe & Debbie Daniels*
- 16 *Darrin & Lynda Cusano*
- 18 *Ken & Lois Green*
- 25 *Tom & Kathy Lyons*
- 27 *Robert & Michelle Brickner*

Shopping Online?

If you are an on-line shopper, you can help the UMC of Mantua. All you have to do is shop through the UMC Market website. Doing so does not change the cost of what you purchase. The retailers will make a donation to us. Please read below. It is a matter of signing up and putting Mantua in the church box. You will be asked to choose between Barnsboro and our church. Make sure choose Mantua.

The United Methodist Church, in partnership with major online retailers, has created a shopping portal that **gives your church a 1 to 9 percent commission** for purchases made by members of your church. They can donate to your church also by booking travel, hotel room and car rental through UMCmarket.

All shoppers have to do is create an account and buy products and merchandise from partner retailers through UMCmarket.org. There's no increased cost or hidden fees. They buy items for the same prices they would pay on those retailers' sites.

It's simple and easy — it's [UMCmarket](http://UMCmarket.org).

What is required of you and your church members to make this happen?

1. Visit UMCMarket.org and create an account. During the account setup, designate a beneficiary church to which the commission for their purchases will go. (**Select Mantua**)
2. Log into UMCMarket and shop at the partner retailers or you can use the free downloadable add-on for their Web browser and shop at the partner retailers.
3. Your church will receive a check from UMCMarket.



Presents...

Friday Performances Jan. 31 & Feb. 7 - 8 pm / Saturday Performances Feb. 1 & Feb. 8 - 8 pm / Sunday Performances Feb. 2 & Feb. 9 - 3 pm

Disney
MULAN JR.

TICKETS

	Advance	Door
Adults/Seniors	\$15	\$17
Children 12 & under	\$10	\$12

Group rates available, please call for information.



All performances held in the Community Hall of
The United Methodist Church of Mantua
201 Mantua Boulevard
Mantua, New Jersey 08051

856-589-8665
www.Spotliters.com

Funding is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts from a grant to the Gloucester County Cultural & Heritage Commission at Gloucester County College.