

# The Vine

## **From Pastor Doug...**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which is February 10 this year. The Lenten season, for some, is a time to give up something as a means of self-denial. It is only 4 days before Valentine's Day. Now I know you are thinking that Valentine's Day doesn't really celebrate the kind of love associated with God's self-giving, sacrificial love. That being said, what if this year, instead of giving up a food or a habit or whatever, we decided to very consciously respond to people with God-like love? It isn't a normal response to which we default, in fact, it is the opposite. Look again at a description of this kind of love from I Corinthians: Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Making this our response when someone wrongs us, agitates us, mistreats us, or just plain makes us angry means that we respond in a Christ-like way. Actually, we are giving up self-centeredness, selfishness, and sin when we respond in love. What great things to give up! May all of us be filled to overflowing with Christ-like love this Lenten season.

**Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Worship** will be held here at 6:00 pm on February 10. We will have a light supper of soup, bread and fruit, then move to the sanctuary at 7:00 pm for the service. If you would like to bring a soup or some bread, there will be a sign up sheet in McConnell Hall or feel free to call the church office.

### **Upcoming Acolyte Schedule**

February 14 at 7 PM We will meet at the New Sharon UMC  
March 2 Roller Skating at Deptford Roller Rink 5:30 to 8 PM \$10.00  
includes Admission, Skate Rental, and all you can eat pizza  
March 13 at 7 PM We will meet at New Sharon UMC

### **Upcoming Confirmation Class Schedule**

February 4 7:00 pm Redemption and Holy Spirit  
February 25 7:00 pm Church and New Creation  
March 3 7:00 pm Way of Discipleship and Way of Salvation  
March 17 7:00 pm Wesleyan Quadrilateral and Worship

Our Ministerium is once again holding Lenten Lunch Study Opportunities at Noon. We will be looking at the events of Gethsemane in Matthew's gospel. This year, each participant is being asked to bring a bag lunch and the host church will provide beverages.

February 17—Woodbury Heights Presbyterian Church  
February 24—Wenonah UMC  
March 2—The UMC of Mantua  
March 9—Barnsboro UMC  
March 16—Mt. Zion Wesley UMC

Join us as we learn and share together.



## MTV Painless Fundraiser

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



**Shop Rite**

**Where does the money go?**

**It pays for some of the equipment needs of MTV.**

**In addition, contributions have been made to UMC Mission Trips and The Waterproofing 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!

### Average Gift Card Purchases

2015 1st Quarter  
\$455 per week

2015 2nd Quarter  
\$337 per week

2015 3rd Quarter  
\$434 per week

**-Keep up the Good Work  
Thank you for your continued support!  
Bruce Reyher, MTV Treasurer**

*Dear Reverend Baitinger:*

*Thank you and the congregation of the Mantua Methodist Church once again for another great year of helping to improve the holidays for the families who reside in Mantua.*

*The overwhelming donations that were received have made the holidays brighter for these families. Thank you again for another successful year, and hopefully I will be talking with you again in 2016.*

*Sincerely,  
William Lang, Director  
Karen Robinson, Adm Secretary  
Gloucester County Division of Social Services*

**Blanket Sunday February 7** You've helped us respond to disasters for more than six decades. We've seen CWS Blankets used as shelters, suitcases, coats, stretchers—you name it. But the first role the blanket plays is as a symbol that someone care enough to help. Are you that someone? Each \$10 donation purchases one blanket to give to someone in need.



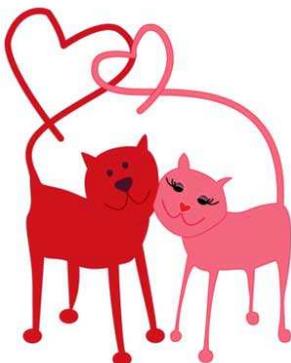
# Happy February Birthday!

1 Betty Jameson  
Joyce Wescott  
2 Amy Durand  
Jody Miller  
Linda Rudisill  
4 Brenda Anderson  
Nick Colamarino  
6 Larissa Tumminia  
7 Bill Lisle  
Richard Lynch  
8 Morgan Gallagher  
Robert Hoskins  
9 Adam Eubanks  
12 Patricia Nolte  
Joe Vincent  
13 Charlie Armstrong  
Danielle Davis  
Erin Munch  
Marc Nagtegaal  
14 Pam Baitinger  
Ryan Borgersen



16 Chelsea Guarrera  
17 Barbara Davis  
Nancy Fink  
Marilyn Heston  
Kai Kraft  
Karisa Wescott  
Megan Yearicks  
Morgan Yearicks  
18 Chris Seabo  
19 Anthony Dorisio  
20 Judy Bufala  
21 Shannon String  
22 Kristin Baitinger  
Thomas Booth  
Marcie Daniels  
Jeffrey Fuchs  
25 Monica Dilio  
Donald Rumbol  
Lynn Varner  
26 Jimmy Heise  
27 Terry Grabert

## Happy February Anniversary



2 Dan & Terri Smith  
6 Doug & Pam Baitinger  
11 Pardam & Theresa Skalit  
14 Bill & Debbie Wolf  
22 Harry & Lorraine Little  
27 Jan & Janet Fuhrer  
28 Bryson & Michelle Biglin

## January/February 2016 Mantua Methodist Vine Research Insert

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 related sources.

Ex 21:16 – "...he that stealeth a man,... selleth him,...be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death."

## HENRY BROWN: THE MAILED MAN

**CHATTEL**---A DEFINITION: "---a movable article or property. Example: Slave."

### HENRY BROWN'S FAMILY

Henry had a family---a wife and three children---in 1849. Their slave social status allowed them to be sold as chattel. They---transported to another state by the new owner---left Henry behind in Richmond, Virginia. Everyone "knew" black slaves did not have the same feelings as their "white masters". Dogs probably received better respect and care. Canine hunting skills put meat on the table. Who cared if one little black man slave grieved the loss through sale of his family? Henry's owner made a profit.

### HENRY REACTS

Acutely aware he would never see his family again, the resolve to be free burned in Henry. It physically burned him---he poured sulfuric acid over one hand to be excused from picking tobacco. This was just the first step in his plan for freedom. Much more was to come from his daring escape.

### THE WAY IS PAVED

On March 3, 1845, Congress adjusted shipping laws allowing parcels/packages of more than three pounds to be carried by private companies. One company---Adams Express, a Boston Company---advertised to carry such cargo. The service soon expanded through the nation including both Northern and Southern sectors---including Richmond, Virginia. Two-day delivery was practically guaranteed. This service became so popular that periodicals, letters, documents, plows, farm tools, et al, flooded the market. The obvious lack of controls proved to be additional sparks fueling the fiery slave issue.

### THE WAY IS PAVED

Henry is ready for the seemingly impossible desperate attempt to escape slavery. With no padding to cushion the impacts, an air hole drilled in the crate, his energy source---desperation---, he curled up like a human moth to emerge as a free man. The trip from Richmond to Philadelphia proved to be a two-day ordeal. Barely alive upon arrival, efforts were made to nourish him---and provide protection from recapture by Southern Units. Freedom was precarious.

In the Compromise of 1850, provisions enabled slave hunters to recapture runaways North of the Mason-Dixon Line. Henry---narrowly escaping recapture---fled to England only to return after the American Civil War.

### LABOR SHORTAGES

In recent Wall Street Journal (WSJ) articles, a major problem is already surfacing---a labor shortage. Impossible as this may seem, the articles stress the lack of career-based education is producing students not equipped for today's training demands.

One commentator on KYW last month compared the Chinese in training for a special type of programming. The report stated in America only enough to fill a large room could be found\*---in China several such size rooms could be filled. And still this would not be enough to meet China's demands.

### WHY?

The major countries---both East and West---are experiencing major population declines. China's--- now abandoned one child per family policy---, smaller family units, birth control and abortions top the list. To keep growing we need more people. But---from where?

### DÉJÀ VU?

One area's population supplies an answer---**Africa**. This time Slave Ships will not visit their shores. Many are on Visa getting education in the US. Strict immigration practices--- **Discrimination under another name**--- can adversely affect our shortage---and our European counterparts. We are all one.



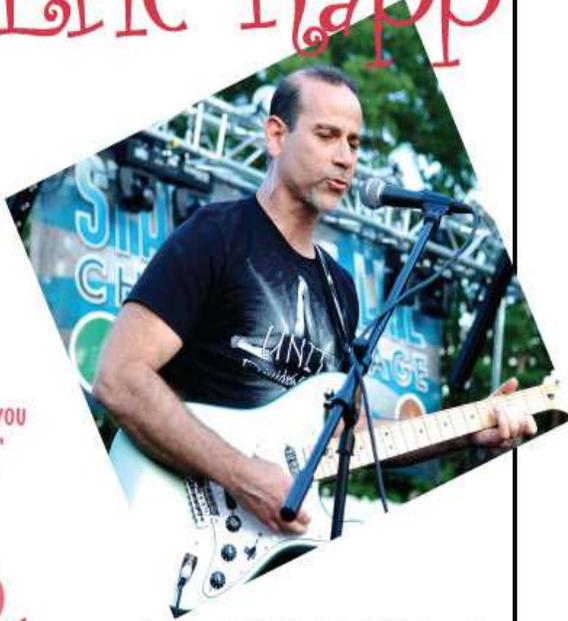
# The Coffee House

at Mantua UMC Welcomes

## Eric Rapp

Friday  
Feb. 19th  
7:30pm

Jesus loves you,  
cares for you  
and has a plan for you  
in His "Bigger Story"



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

Free Admission. Free Coffee, Tea, Baked Goods!

Mantua United Methodist Church  
201 Mantua Blvd. Mantua, NJ 08051  
856-468-2711

Check out [www.mantuaumc.org](http://www.mantuaumc.org) for more info  
or email [mamakreh@gmail.com](mailto:mamakreh@gmail.com)



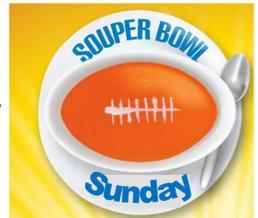
### Zumba with Paula

Bring Yoga Mat/Hand Weights

\$5 per class

Mondays at 7:00 pm

The Corinthian Cupboard  
is collecting soups &  
stews Super Bowl Sunday  
February 7, 2016 to help  
tackle hunger!



**SPOTLITERS**  
INC.

PRESENTS:

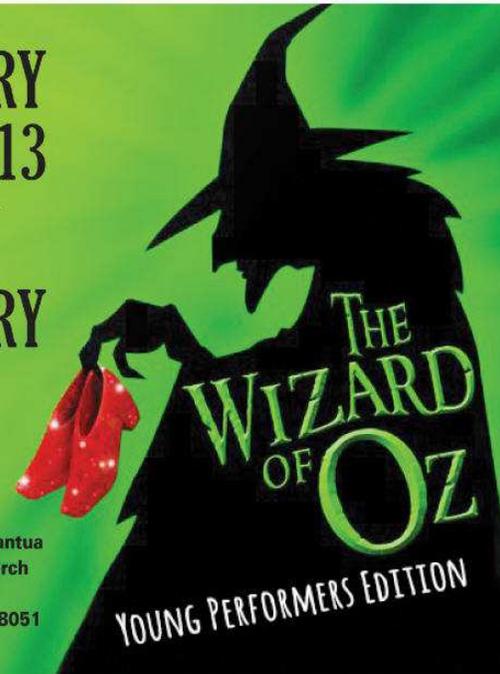
**FEBRUARY  
5, 6, 12, 13**

Friday & Saturday  
evenings at 8pm

**FEBRUARY  
7 & 14**

Sunday matinees  
at 3pm

Community Hall of Mantua  
United Methodist Church  
201 Mantua Blvd,  
Mantua Twnshp, NJ 08051



Spotlitters, Inc., a local community theatre group, invites you to join us as we go "Over the Rainbow" when we present the classic musical - THE WIZARD OF OZ. Featuring thirty-three young performers from this area, this all-time favorite play will be performed in the Community Hall of the Mantua United Methodist Church, 201 Mantua Blvd., Mantua, NJ. Start your journey to OZ by ordering tickets for any of these performances - February 5, 6, 12, 13 (Fridays & Saturdays) and February 7 & 14 (Sunday matinees). Group rates are available. For tickets and information, visit our webpage [www.spotlitters.com](http://www.spotlitters.com), like us on Facebook, or call 856-217-3313.

**Tickets in Advance:**

General Admission: **\$16.00**

Seniors (ages 62+): **\$12.00**

Children 12 & under: **\$12.00**

**Tickets at the Door:**

General Admission: **\$18.00**

Seniors (ages 62+): **\$14.00**

Children 12 & under: **\$14.00**

**GROUP RATES AVAILABLE, PLEASE CALL FOR INFORMATION!**

**856-217-3313 • [www.spotlitters.com](http://www.spotlitters.com)**





**What is a LifeGroup?** "LifeGroups are a ministry of our Evangelism Team. Their purpose is the development of discipleship. They meet on a regular schedule for Bible Study and prayer, accountability, fellowship, service, and intentional (group) growth through multiplication. The foundational principle is confidentiality for the purpose of encouraging accountability." Come see what it's all about!

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Led by Joyce Mooney at the home of Ann Newcomb  
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm Led by Wayne Histan at the home of Alice & Wayne Histan  
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm Led by Greg Miller at the home of Jody & Greg Miller.  
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm Led by Todd Hickman at the home of Debrah & Todd Hickman.

***Sunday Night Life***  
February 21  
6:00 pm  
At The UMC of Mantua

Sunday Night Life originally began as a monthly worship celebration of our various Lifegroups\* at the United Methodist Church of Mantua. Since then, SNL has grown into a time of worship that includes people who do not necessarily belong to a Lifegroup and others not associated with the UMC of Mantua.

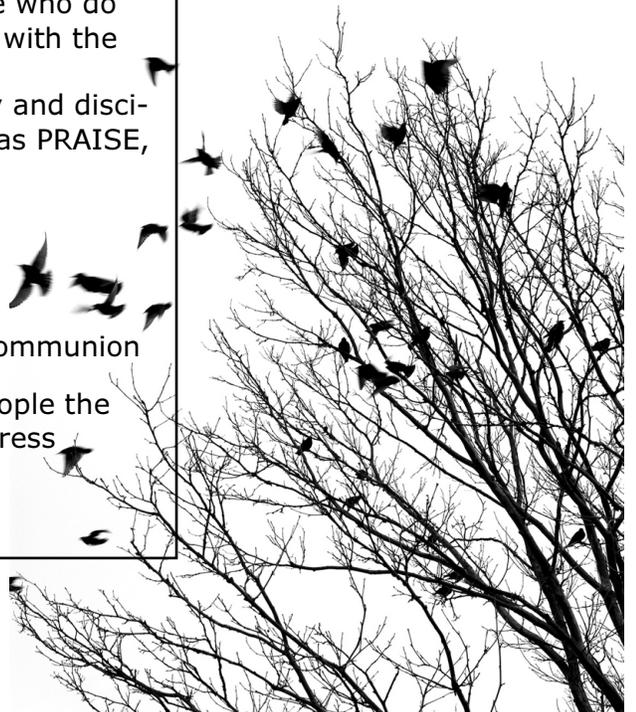
Our vision is to provide a Christ centered, seeker friendly and discipleship focused celebration. What we do can best be described as PRAISE, PRAY and PROCLAIM:

PRAISE with our voices as one

PRAY for one another, our community and the world we share

PROCLAIM Jesus as Lord through Bible reading, teaching and Communion

Our mission is to reach into the surrounding community, tell people the good news of Jesus, and give them a home where they can express their joy.



# CHILI COOK-OFF



## Chili Cook-Off

The United Methodist Men of Mantua will host a chili contest/dinner on February 20th 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 thank our sponsors by patronizing their businesses.



Daniel N. Smith Jr. NJ Lic. No. 4684  
Funeral Director

Daniel N. Smith Sr. NJ Lic. No. 3263  
Manager

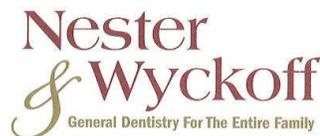
Douglas W. Wagner NJ Lic. No. 4578  
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47 Main Street ~ Mantua, NJ 08051

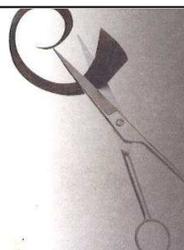
Fax: 856-468-0672

Email: smithfh@comcast.net ~ www.smithfhmantua.com

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Sat 8:30 am - 3 pm

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