

The Vine

From Pastor Doug...

As I am writing this on March 17, I am watching snowflakes. We have had quite some winter. Even for someone who enjoys snow as much as I do, it is time for the change of season. I really don't want to shovel anymore. I have to confess that I am anxiously anticipating warmer days, sunshine, trees budding leaves and flowers blooming.

The good news is that when we get snow this late, the sunshine lasts longer and warms the earth more quickly so that the snow melts faster. Before we know it, we will soon be seeing signs of new life emerging from the dead-appearing earth. I am ready. Certainly this is an appropriate time to celebrate Easter. Just when it appeared that Satan had won and death was victorious, Jesus emerged from the tomb triumphant over sin and death. New life springs forth from the place of death.

Because of Easter, when we open our lives to Christ, we too move from death to life. We are being made new as we grow in God's love. Just as we anticipate the coming spring, especially this year, we anticipate what God will do for us when we reach the fullness of his new creation. Thanks be to God for the warmth of God's "Sonshine" that makes new life possible.



FAMILY PROMISE OF GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Cordially invites you to attend a

Gala Art Exhibition and Auction
On Sunday Afternoon, April 6, 2014
At St. Charles Borromeo RC Church
Siena Hall
176 Stagecoach Road
Sicklerville, NJ 08081

Preview: 1:00 pm Auction 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Admission \$20.00 individual; \$10.00 seniors; \$30.00 couples

50/50/ Raffle & Silent Auction

Hors D'oeuvres—Desserts—Wine—Beverages

For information call Donna Freidel at 856-232-2220 or Gary Solmon at 856-243-5971

Major Credit Cards Accepted * Featuring Art in All Media & Price Ranges
Please see Janet Fuhrer to purchase tickets in McConnell Hall.

*Please show your support today! Visit marlinart.com and any purchase you make will benefit our organization.
Simply enter code 64098 upon check out.*

New District Parsonage Dedication April 13 - Palm Sunday Afternoon at 2:30 pm

Our Superintendency Committee, Bishop Schol, Cabinet members, the Conference Trustees, our clergy and laity will gather to dedicate the new district residence. Please come to enjoy the fellowship, the food and the open house. It is in Legends in Mantua. We will be sharing directions soon.

April Acolyte Schedule

April 6 5:30 pm Acolyte Meeting
April 13 7:00 pm Easter Cantata

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. All are welcome. If you have any questions, contact the Church office at 468-2711 or call 468-5549.

Small Group Meetings

Small Group meets at The Miller's on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm and at The Histan's on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

Come see what it's all about!



**Small Group
Connect & Grow**



The Coffee House

at Mantua UMC Welcomes

Refiner's Fire

Friday
April 11th
7:30pm
Free Admission
Free Coffee,
Tea,
Baked Goods!

"I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The Lord is our GOD.'"
Zechariah 13:9b



We have been brought together because we are Won by One, unified to accomplish the vision set before us in reaching the lost through our music, and empowering the Saved to become rejuvenated to go out and Preach the Gospel to all Creation. Mark 16:15

Upcoming Dates! Above the Fall May 16

Realville 2014 – January, February, March and beyond.....

College Youth Group! MidWinter Advance 2 – 1/31/14 to 2/2/14



First weekend of MidWinter Advance was great!!! We had a fabulous time! 4 of our College students were available to go away. Great team, great fellowship and the beginning of Pay It Forward!



Care Packages for the Military – 1/19 to 2/9



We would like to say Thank you to all of you who purchased items to be sent to our Military! We had 3 churches donate things to be sent – Thank you to the members and families from Mantua UMC, Barnsboro UMC and Mt. Zion UMC for all of your support!! Also a Thank you to our Realville Youth Group – we wrote out a couple of letters.... And about 25 cards of Thanks and encouragement!!! We should be able to send 2 nice size boxes of items and notes! Thank you!!!

Best weekend...ever!!!! MidWinter Advance 4 – 1/31/14 to 2/2/14



It took me by surprise!!! It was a truly moving weekend! The messages were brought to us by Madelyn Badillo from the Nyack Team. She is ...a phenomenal speaker!! Her messages touched us all. To see how this weekend away changed how the youth acted, prayed & worshipped together! It was fabulous!!!! I was blessed with 18 of my fabulous youth, 1 of my fabulous college students... and great leaders too ~ thank you to Pamela Baitinger, Joanne Guarrera, Greg Miller, Todd Hickman, Missy Kirkbride, and Steven Snow for stepping up

and helping for the weekend! Having you with me was a blessing! I really feel that this weekend: MWA4 ~ was the best weekend ever!



30 Hour Famine – 2/21/14 to 2/22/14

30 Hour Famine started on Friday, Feb 21, with loud music and lots of fun, fellowship, praising, but no food for the Youth!! Here we are.... 30 HOUR FAMINE AND THE COFFEE HOUSE BAND "NEVER FORSAKEN"... GREAT NIGHT AT THE UMC OF MANTUA



After the music was over we went on a field trip – Bowling from 10:00 pm to 1:00 am! 30 of us went and had a blast!!!! Very tired but singing and dancing and wishing Kristen Baitinger a Happy Birthday at midnight..... Lots of water and juice, but still no food. We came back and the guys went to their room to play games and sleep... The ladies were up for a little more fun – we watched Frozen till 3:00 am (I should say - I watched it till 3... they all were asleep!!!) We had a lot of schedules merge on Saturday so our

plans got shifted..... WE watched a movie & went to play Volleyball at Pitman UMC for a couple of hours... Came back and had a time of Worship! Thank you to the praise band for coming in and joining us. After a short devotional and prayer.... We were treated to a fabulous meal..... BREAKFAST to finish off our fast. Thank you to everyone that donated food, water, juice, time for driving..... We greatly appreciate you!!!
Reminder – if you did not get a chance to donate to the 30 Hour Famine – please see me! Sincerely...
Penny K

Service Opportunity at Seaville UMC

Realville had an opportunity to serve others who are helping Sandy victims! We traveled to the Jersey shore to feed dinner to the a group from High Point University, they had just arrived to begin working on homes down the shore that were damaged. Thank you to everyone who came and the families that donated: baked ziti, meatballs & sauce, homemade garlic bread, desserts, beverages, supplies, ice cream from the Seaville UMC too. Thanks to those who came and helped set up, clean up and our drivers too! It was a great opportunity and a fun night!



Play time with Pitman UMC Youth Group

3/16 – we were invited to joined Pitman UMC’s Youth Group for an evening of volleyball. We had a quick message about “Who is Greater”, Mark 9:33-37..... then drove down to Pitman for an evening of fun, fellowship, snacks and lots of volleyball!! It is Spring Break... We were luck to have a lot of the college crew home, Justin, Steven, Missy, Luke, and Emily too. Thank you to our drivers, line judge & players of all ages!!!!



April 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.

THE CURSE OF THE TREE

Deuteronomy 21: 22-23, "And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death,..."

The Hebrew Law capital punishment methods were stoning, by the sword, strangulation and burning. Joshua captured the pagan kings and slew them. (Joshua 10:26.)

Deuteronomy 21: 22-23, "...and thou hang him on a tree:..."

Under Jewish Law, as a deterrent AFTER death, the body was hung from a tree. The "Liberty Bible Commentary" uses Cross/tree designation. The "tree" is used in Acts 5:30 and other NT passages. Joshua 10:26, "...and they were hanging upon the trees until evening."

GOD Condemns Jesus

Deuteronomy 21: 22-23, "...he that is hanged is accursed of God;..."

GOD excoriates Jesus, verbally flaying Him as a spear piercing flesh and soul. His Father in Heaven reviles Him in His agony. Jesus has disgraced His name, humiliation on earth...and from heaven. His cry of thirst produces a cup of GOD's wrath...a bitter gall to drink.

Matthew 27:46, "...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Jesus has represented the condemned in their agony.

How Did GOD Feel?

(The Baptism) Mark 1:11, "And there came a voice from heaven, saying, 'Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"

GOD's beloved Son was cruelly executed. There is no record of the pain GOD felt. But we do know HIS love for us was the motivation of the Crucifixion. Are we **REALLY** thankful?

The Burial Law

Deuteronomy 21: 22-23, "...his body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shall...bury him that day; that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance." Joshua 10:27, "...at the time of the going down of the sun...Joshua commanded...and they took them down off the trees..."

The Burial Law Prevails

Matthew 27:50, "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost."

Jesus, able to escape the torments, endured until the end. All of this just for us.

Matthew 27:57, "When the even was come...a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph...(58) begged the body of Jesus)...(60) And laid it in his own new tomb..."

Joseph knew the Passover Laws but was obligated, above all, by Deuteronomy requirements.

Easter: Just A Routine Spring Celebration?

Message importance lost today? Same old story? Lukewarm feelings? Mostly new clothes?

Luke 23:34, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Amen.



Easter Egg Hunt

(For children 2 years - 6th grade)

United Methodist Church

of Mantua

McCowell Hall

Saturday, April 19th

11:00 A.M.

Rain or Shine

Light Lunch will be served

(Hot Dog, Chips, Beverage, Dessert)

All children MUST be accompanied by an adult.

Bring your basket, and join the fun!

EASTER FLOWERS

The SALT Class is taking orders for Easter Flowers to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, Apr. 20. Terri Smith (468-3697) will collect orders in the narthex after worship on Apr. 6 & 13.

Please make checks payable to: **The SALT Class.**

5/6 Bloom Tulips	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$6.75 = \$	Cash/Check
5/6 Bloom Daffodils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$6.50 = \$	
5/6 Bloom Lilies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$8.00 = \$	
1 Bloom Hydrangea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$6.00 = \$	
3 Bloom Hydrangea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$14.00 = \$	TOTAL \$

Flowers will be taken after - 1st service _____ OR 2nd service _____

Please CIRCLE Memory or Honor below and PRINT carefully!

Phone #: _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

Given by: _____



SAVE THE DATE! Taco Dinner May 17th

Tickets are \$7 and will include 3 tacos, dessert and drinks
All proceeds will go to the Evangelism effort of the United Methodist Church of Mantua.

Krispy Kreme doughnuts will be sold by the Realville youth to raise funds for this summer's mission trip to Steubenville, Ohio. Orders will be taken during fellowship time in McConnell Hall. The cost is \$9.00 per dozen for original glazed doughnuts and \$10.50 per dozen for specialty doughnuts (chocolate frosted, raspberry filled, lemon filled, and cream filled). Orders will be delivered on Sunday, April 6th during fellowship time. Thank you in advance for your support!



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!

Results for the Year 2013: Average \$425 per week in gift card purchases! Great Job!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!
Bruce Reyher, MTV Treasurer

**W.O.W.
It's Back!**

VBS



Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, April 13th

7:30 - 9:30am

in McConnell Hall

\$6.00 Donation per ticket

Kids under 3 eat Free

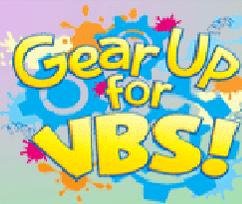
**Bring your appetite
to enjoy a buffet of**

**Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, Orange
Juice, Coffee & Tea!**



**Tickets on Sale March 16th in
McConnell Hall between Services.**

Thank you for your support!!



**Vacation Bible School 2014
Workshop of Wonders
Imagine & Build with God**

Why not start off summer with a week of fun and learning with family and friends at The United Methodist Church of Mantua's VBS 2014? Vacation Bible School will be held Mon. June 23rd - Fri. June 27th from 6pm - 8:30pm. We will begin with dinner every night, followed by missions, music, classes for all ages, games, crafts, snacks and prayer.

Every day we all have routines or schedules and sometimes during the day we may experience the wonder of God. Sometimes when this occurs we could say "WOW" (Workshop of Wonders) and be surprised and grateful. We hope you will be able to attend VBS where we will learn how ordinary can become extraordinary with God.

Are you ready to learn the new Vacation Bible School songs? Starting in March, we will have the Workshop of Wonders CD available for \$5.00. You can purchase it in McConnell Hall between the services.

For more information or if you would like to help, please see or call Jenise Fraser at 218-7802.

Happy April Birthday!

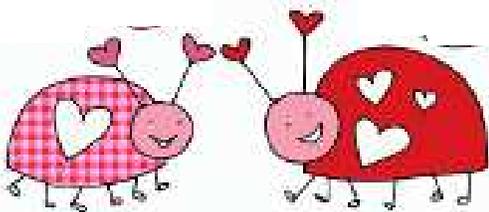
- 1 Lisa Austin
- 2 Sean Gorman
Justin Kruithof
Craig D. Rudisill
- 4 Joe Gelormini
Lorraine Litle
Debbie Sullivan
- 5 Robert Austin
- 6 Carter Ingram
Jordan Legg
George Shute III
- 7 David Heiss
Savanna Schaekel
Christopher Skalit
- 8 Joshua Yannerella
- 10 John Fuchs
Wayne Histan
Emily Langer
Shelby Smith
Peggy Steckclair
Dave Steckclair II
Joel Szychoski
- 11 Evan Niewoehner
Ashlee Sullivan
Melissa Tagye
Stephen Tumminia
- 12 Walt Seibel



- 14 Kitty Gardner
- 17 Leah Carelli
- 18 Howard Aaronson
Evan Godsey
Tyler Kreh
- 20 Karl Dickel
Ryan Drucker
Jenn Kraft
- 21 Jake Armstrong
- 22 Elizabeth Bobzin
Michael Gorman
Elise Jennings
- 23 Beverly Covert
Christine Foster
Jim McManamy
Ed Reyher
Walter Rouh
- 24 Brynn Cusano
Mabel Sherman
- 26 Dan Gooch
Nick Kreh
- 28 Jacob Shutman
- 29 Tricia Eckert
- 30 Emma Kohl
Jim Kruithof

Happy April Anniversary

- 2 Ed & Marcie Daniels
- 12 Paul & Lori Brooks
- 17 Chris & Tracie Schaekel
- 19 Heather & Joe Vincent
- 20 Ed & Beverly Covert
- 24 John & Corrine Brickner
- 26 Neil & Heather Riggs
- 27 George & Nancy Wescott



This is My Story...

By Susan Fuchs

God speaks to us in many different ways and through many people. It is our job to listen. One time that was most meaningful to me was in 2001. At the time I was in a very rough, abusive marriage. Due to the turmoil, some of my decisions were not the best. I was also working with the UMYF at the time, alongside of Phyllis Stester. She, as those of you who knew her would understand, had lots of advice and counsel for me. But it was at Keswick that I found the direction I needed to get through my life at the time by listening to God. I had decided to explain to the teens that due to the fact I did not feel I was a very good example of what kind of life they should aim for, I was going to step down from working with them. After I tried to explain, one of the girls spoke up. She said, "Susan, it is not because your life is perfect that we listen to you, but rather that your life is not and you still trust and know God is there. You have told us that God will help his children through any hard time, so you are just living that example. It is OK if you don't have all the answers, just that you love and trust in Him. That is what we need to see." It was a both a reminder of His love and a call to never hide away from sharing God's love with others. Your life does not have to be perfect for people to see God working through it and use you as example of Christian strength. You just need to be ready and listen.



The E-Team will be selling
Rock The Block T Shirts
\$15 each
Sizes S, M, L, XL

**Chews United Methodist Men's
Annual Good Friday Breakfast
Friday, April 18, 2014
7:00 am**

The guest speaker this year is our very own Pastor Doug! Please RSVP by April 14th to office@chewsumc.com or 939-1007

We wanted to share the following letter from the Gloucester County Division of Social Services in regards to our 2013 Angel Tree gifts:

Dear Congregation:

Thank you and your congregation for another great year of helping to improve the holidays for the many needy families in Gloucester County. The slow economy has brought more families than ever to our door requesting help with toys for their children.

The generous donations that were received have made the holidays brighter for many residents of our county.

Thank you for your generosity.

*Sincerely,
Edward Smith
Superintendent*

*Karen Robinson
Adm Secretary*

Altar Flowers

It's 2014! Please see Debbie Middleton to order your 2014 Altar Flowers dedications. There are several available Sundays. Order forms are available in the Narthex or contact Debbie at 848-3543 or email ocdeb51@verizon.net.

Sunday Night Life

April 27 6 pm Sunday Night Life
May 18 5 pm Covered Dish Dinner & Sunday Night Life

Lenten Soup Lunch and Study

Once again the churches of our ministerium will be gathering at noon on Wednesdays during Lent for soup and study. We will be looking at some of the Psalms this year. The schedule is as follows:

- April 2—The UMC of Mantua
- April 9—Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Wenonah

Confirmation Class March Schedule

- April 3 7:00 pm Confirmation Class at the UMC of Mantua
- April 12 9:15 am Trip to St. George's UMC in Philadelphia, PA. Cost is \$5 per person and please bring money for lunch.

 <p>SMITH FUNERAL HOME 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. 4578</p> <p>Daniel N. Smith, Jr. NJ Lic. No. 4684</p> <p>Robert C. Smith, Jr. 1921-2003 (856) 468-0670 www.smithfhmantua.com Let us answer your questions about funerals, cremations & pre-planning.</p>	<p>Nester & Wyckoff General Dentistry For The Entire Family</p> <p>200 East Mantua Avenue • Wenonah NJ 08090 856-468-5858 • 856-468-9098 fax southjerseydental.com</p> <p>Tuesday - Thursday 10-8 Friday 10-6 • Saturday 9-4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aim To Please</i> • Beauty Salon •</p> <p>256-1710 9 North Broadway Pitman, New Jersey 08071</p>	<p>MAYTAG FRIGIDAIRE WESTINGHOUSE</p> <p>Woodbury Appliance, Inc. 753 Mantua Pike Woodbury, New Jersey 08096</p> <p>Kitchen Aid Magic Chef</p> <p>Phone: 845-3710 Sales & Service</p> <p>Shute's Enterprise (856) 456-2675</p> <p>BAT - A - RAMA 600 Gateway Blvd. (Rt. 45) Westville, NJ 08093 Indoor Batting Range & Pro Shop Baseball & Softball Camps, Clinics Private Lessons</p> <p>George bat-a-rama.com Artene</p>	<p>PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS. THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO THANK THEM!</p>
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