



## *The Vine*

### **My Story of Experiencing God's Love (one time of many....)**

This happened when I was the Associate Pastor in Linwood. We traveled to the Christian festival Creation for a number of years with the youth and some of their parents. After the "mud" year when the camping conditions were horrible at best, the only way that I could convince some of the adults to go as chaperones was to promise that we would find a place to camp near Creation and commute. The closest decent campground was Raystown Lake. The road to the Creation farm from Raystown was a mountain road that wound up and down hills and around curves. Travelling the road during the day time was fun, but at night it was a bit challenging. There was one particular hill that had, at one point in time, a railroad track running across it. The track was no longer there, but the hill levelled out mid-grade where the track had been, and then the slope continued on.

One night on the way back from Creation, around 11:30 PM, we had the church van and a couple other vehicles, when we came around the curve and started down the hill, we saw a person lying in the road. When we stopped and looked down the hill, we saw a car flipped on its side. It was obvious that they had gone too fast down the hill, hit the level part, and lost control. Alcohol was involved as there were beer bottles smashed all over the road having been thrown out of the vehicle when it flipped. The young lady in the road was conscious, but hurt. She told us that there had been five people in the car. I stayed with the youth in the van and we prayed for the people. We sent an adult back up the hill to find a house or telephone (this was pre-cell phone days and I am not sure there would have been coverage anyway) to get help. We also sent a couple of adults out to see if they could find the other people. We could only find two, both of whom had died from their injuries.



When the ambulance finally arrived, only one other car had passed by, and they also stopped to help. As the young lady regained some awareness, we found out that the other two in the car had been dropped off at home, so there were only three in the car. The youth, needless to say, were shaken by the experience and we spent much time talking about it, praying about it and for the young lady and the families. I have no doubt that God placed us on that road so that we could be "good Samaritans." Anne Emerson, one of the mothers with us who stayed with the young lady while all this was going on, was able to get her name and address. When she returned to Linwood, she wrote to her and kept in contact. She completely recovered from her injuries.

We certainly experienced God's presence through those events. Where we experienced God's love was the following year when we returned to Creation. Anne had kept in touch with her and she met us one night while we were there. She shared with the group her gratitude and love for all that we had done. Because of the experience, her life had changed and she was able to share how foolish her decisions had been. In that encounter with her, we experienced the love of God through her words and gratitude. I don't know anything about the young lady today, but I know the youth, the adults, and I felt God's presence and love through the tragedy, in the healing and lessons learned because of it, and in the love and gratitude of a young lady whose life had been changed.

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 believe if we share our stories, it will help us keep God in our daily lives. This month Pastor Doug shared one of his experiences and I am hoping you will be encouraged to share your experiences too. You can be anonymous if you're shy or be known. All you have to do is write it down and give it to or email it to Becky Langer ([office@mantuaumc.org](mailto:office@mantuaumc.org)).



### 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 Gift cards

Go food shopping for your family or

donate cards to Corinthian Cupboard or

Family Promise!

It costs nothing but reaps great rewards!

**The Average Weekly Gift Card Purchase for 2013  
was \$425 per week! Keep up the Good Work!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

**Bruce Reyher, MTV Treasurer**



## Become a Member of UMC Market!

1. Signup at [UMCMarket.org](http://UMCMarket.org)
2. Enter the name of your UMC church or organization (search for Mantua)
3. Browse through all our categories and choose to shop from our hundreds of stores. Every time you shop the stores will donate a portion of your purchase back

to your selected UMC church or organization. Make sure to log in before going to the stores and to have an empty shopping cart before you start to shop. Also, you need to complete your purchase within 24 hours to be eligible for a donation.

### COUPON CODE

School is about to start!! Are you ready? Log onto UMCMarket.org and Save 30% on Classroom Supplies with coupon code 55791 at Staples.com. Earn up to a 3.5% in contributions for your ministry!

Shop at your favorite online stores.



and thousands more...

## New Ministry Team Being Formed

Beginning this Fall, we will be forming The UMC of Mantua Care Team. This Mission Statement for this team will be as follows: By our compassionate presence we will witness to Christ who is already present in service to the home-bound, sick, and recovering.

The Care Team is a part of the UMC of Mantua's Nurture Ministry Team. Persons who feel called to be a part of this ministry will be assigned to visit someone who is homebound, in the hospital, or recovering from an illness. The expectation would be a visit and a call or card. The team member will be the link to our church for the individual to whom they are assigned. The purpose of this is to assist Pastor Doug in keeping contact, not to replace pastoral visits. There will also be opportunity to share communion with homebound members. For all interested in being a part of this ministry or to find out more about it, there will be a training on how to visit and what is expected or not expected of the visitors. The training will be held on Tuesday, September 30, at 7 PM.

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<p>Shute's Enterprise (856) 456-2675</p> <p><b>BAT - A - RAMA</b></p> <p>000 Gateway Blvd. (Rt. 46) West Deptford, NJ 08066 Indoor &amp; Outting Rama &amp; Pro Shop Baseball &amp; Softball Camps, Clinics Private Lessons</p> <p>George bat-a-rama.com Arlene</p>	<p><b>C.J. Sanderson &amp; Son Florist</b></p> <p>OUR BUSINESS IS BLOOMIN Since 1913 435 Morris Street, Woodbury 845-0019</p>	<p>Please Thank Our Advertisers by Patronizing their businesses.</p>

**September, 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.

# MANTUA METHODIST NO LONGER INDEPENDENT

**Source: The 2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church**

## *Introduction*

Many are descendants of those original early 1900's builders. Spiritual ownership feeling then flowed strongly as it does today. There is a change. The "trust" practice, which is very old, replaced the "owner" status. We are no longer a "stand-alone" Church. We are **United**.

## *"Trust" Court Tests*

The Methodist Trust Clause survived many court decisions.

## *Restrictions*

The District Superintendent, through the "trust", now establishes rules of usage. The Superintendent guarantees major denominational uniformity. Property maintenance and ownership remains with the Church.

## *When did this begin?*

John Wesley, in 1750, required deeds for three English Methodist preaching houses. Three eminent lawyers, each assigned a house, drew up the documents. These provided a consolidated model in 1796 for Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke to be adopted by the General Conference. This clause first appeared in the 1797 Book of Discipline.

## *Connectionalism*

Unlike the congregational (stand-alone) churches, we are connected (**United**). The **United** Methodist Churches provide a larger governing structure. This includes (but is not limited to) districts, annual conferences and the General Conference.

This is lost in the Congregational Churches. Each Church recruits and dismisses their Pastors. Methodist Pastors are appointed by the Bishop. Again: the standards are preserved (**United**).

## *Itinerancy*

The Methodist Church most famous symbols are the Cross and the Flame. The closely associated traveling circuit rider is an image emphasizing uniformity with the stability of his presence. The origin of "Methodist" is methodical... a uniform (**United**) method of operation.

## *Mission*

## *"But our Congregation's time and money built it!!!"*

The "trust" negates the above statement. (See "trust" definition above.) Our adversary is served by those who insist on independence. The name, "**United Methodist Church**", says it. The one goal is to make all Disciples of Jesus Christ. The Message is clear. No exceptions!!!

**UNITED WE STAND**



## Mantua United Methodist Church Picnic

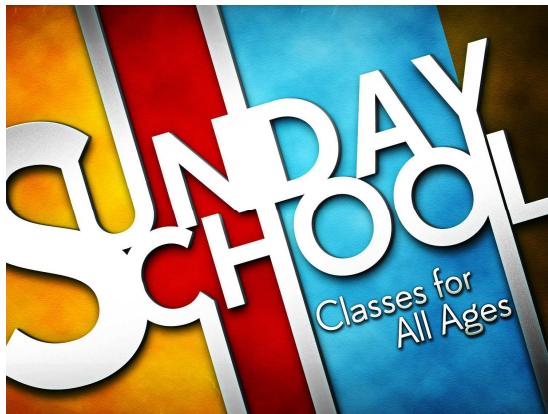
at Old Cedar Campground

September 20, 2014

1:00 pm—6:00 pm

Summer will be coming to a close and as we get back into our regular schedules of Sunday School, team meetings, choir and praise band rehearsals the Nurture Team thought it would be a good idea to pause and gather over food, fellowship and games. Everyone is invited to join us on this, the last Saturday of summer.

Old Cedar has a very large pavilion as well as playgrounds, a swimming pool, lake, ball fields, basketball and volleyball courts as well as two fishing ponds and it will all be accessible to all attendees of the Mantua Family Reunion.



### Sunday School Kick-Off September 7 at 11:00 AM

**We are in need of a few volunteers to be Sunday School Subs! Please see Susan Fuchs or Jenise Fraser if you can help.**

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Would you like to serve the Lord? Do you enjoy singing? Why not consider joining one of the choirs of our church.

**CHERUB CHOIR** - four years old through second grade - Thursday nights @ 7:00 pm  
?? - call Mrs. Joyce Wescott, 468-2765

**JUNIOR CHOIR** - third through eighth grades - Sundays immediately following 9:15 worship service  
?? - call Mrs. Nancy Overton, 478-0741

**SENIOR CHOIR** - ninth grade through..... - Thursday nights @ 7:30 pm  
?? - call Mrs. Kathy Durand, 468-0384

### CHIME CHOIRS

**JUNIOR** - third grade through eighth grade

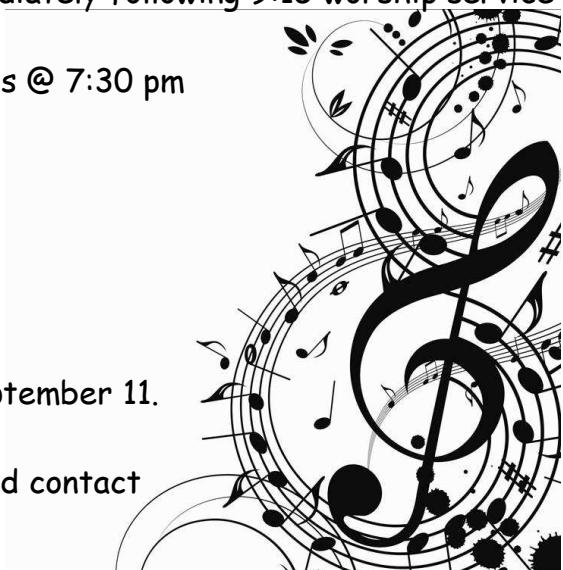
**SENIOR** - beginning at ninth grade

?? - call Mrs. Amy Stanton, 468-9298

Cherub and Senior Choirs will begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 11.

Junior Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 14.

Anyone interested in just singing in the Christmas Cantata should contact Kathy Durand for further information.



## **Neighborhood Center News Highlights!**

The entire Neighborhood Center Newsletter is available on our website in the section titled **Connect**. There are also several printed copies available in the Narthex.

**Neighborhood Center Catering Company** Now Available for your Events, Dinners, or Special Occasions  
Chef Lou was educated at the premier culinary school in America - the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. The catering program proceeds benefit the evening programs for teenagers at the Center. Our catering company is also providing job skills to our teens as cooks, waiters, and managers. For more information contact Chef Lou at the Center 856 365-5295.

**Seeking Board Members for the Neighborhood Center Leadership Academy** We are actively seeking early career professionals to staff its Board Of Directors for the Center's Leadership Academy. The Leadership Academy is perhaps the most vital program the Center offers to teenagers in Camden. If interested please contact Mike Landis at the Center 856.365.5295.

**Yes! A Refurbished Gym at the Neighborhood Center is Happening!** Thank you to the many donors and the Camden County Freeholders for making it possible to renovate the Center's gym. Work has begun on Collegiate Back Boards, refinishing the wood floors, new chairs and tables and a cover for the floor are being ordered. We still need to identify donors for the padding that is needed for the brick walls to protect the children. If interested, please contact Mike directly at [michael.landis@ncicamden.com](mailto:michael.landis@ncicamden.com)

**Back to School Supplies are Needed** Our Summer campers are in need of back to school supplies - please donate supplies or make a monetary donation through our secure website portal at [www.ncicamden.org](http://www.ncicamden.org) Everything from backpacks to binders to calculators are needed!

**Please Help our children start school well supplied!**

**The Neighborhood Center Bus Fundraiser is Making Progress** The Center has raised \$32,000 towards the purchase of a replacement school bus. The bus is vital to the Center's mission and work. It picks children up from their schools and brings them to the Center for our School Age Program allowing Mom and Dad to stay at work. It brings teenagers home safely at night after they have attended the evening Leadership Academy programs, and it picks up Senior Citizens so they can have fellowship time here at the Center. We still need to raise \$10,000.

If you would like to make a donation or require more information, please contact the Center at (856) 365-5295 or make a secure on-line donation at [www.ncicamden.org](http://www.ncicamden.org)

### **Upcoming Events at the Neighborhood Center in Camden that you don't want to miss!**

Please join us at the following upcoming events...

- **Neighborhood Center Clean-Up Day** Yes, after nine weeks of Summer Camp, the Center needs a little tender loving care --well actually it needs a lot to prepare for the new school year. So bring your buckets, mops, and gloves and help put a new luster on a very beautiful campus. Join us on Tuesday, September 2nd from 9 a.m. until ? and enjoy fellowship and good food provided by the Center's Executive Chef Lou Wilson.
- **Neighborhood Center Family Golf Tournament**, Sunday Afternoon on October 5th.
- **Thanksgiving Week Volunteers and Food Donations Needed.** One of the most beautiful times of the year in the life of the Center is the week of Thanksgiving. Last year we served over 350 families on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving with our "Flash" Community Grocery Store, families were able to shop for food and pick-up a turkey. On Thanksgiving we served a noon meal to over 150 individuals and families. To make this possible we need both food donations (including turkeys) and volunteers each day (a lot of volunteers). Please schedule your time to volunteer now by e-mailing Christa Galvin at [Christa@ncicamden.com](mailto:Christa@ncicamden.com)
- Save this date! February 21, 2015 for the **The Neighborhood Center's Annual Winter Gala**. More details to follow. If you would like to join the planning committee, please contact us at (856) 365-5295

# Happy September Birthday!

- 1 JJ Raively  
Drew Rosenberger  
Jim Tagye Jr
- 2 Ryan Rollins
- 3 Lynn Bobzin  
Emily Preece
- 4 Lynn Jameson  
Marc Nagtegaal
- 5 Renee Reyher  
Connor Sennett  
Patricia Wyckoff
- 6 Moira Fox  
George Freshcoln  
Ryan Heston
- 7 Blaise Colamarino  
Joey O'Brien
- 8 Cheyenne Hanahan
- 9 Landon Preece
- 11 Megan Sepsey  
Patti Smith
- 12 Bonnie Fearon
- 13 Meghan Langer
- 16 Jeffrey Reyher  
Lauren Reyher
- 17 Amy Wescott
- 18 Jennifer Bobzin  
Mary Brickner  
Morganna Hodge  
Bob Langer



- 20 Lori Brooks  
Molly Fox
- 21 Amy Popecki
- 22 Dawn Liloia  
Rachel Metz  
Lexi Smith  
David Stecklair
- 23 Matthew Histant  
Karen Kressley
- 24 Tom Beckett  
Debbie Daniels  
Lily Durand  
Carol Lewis  
Kristie McMullen  
Linda Rumbol
- 25 Mark Thompson
- 26 Christopher Makaro
- 27 Tara Gallagher
- 28 Diane Gooch
- 30 JoAnn Colaneri  
Laura Holman  
Christina Skalit  
Joseph Skupien

## Happy September Anniversary

- 2 Jim & Ruth McManamy
- 7 John & Robin Degirolamo
- 8 Bob & Judy Bufala
- 9 Rich & Joanne Guerrera
- 15 Kim & Danielle Kraft  
Ted & Amy Popecki
- 16 Bob & Muriel Lisle
- 17 Michael & Dawn Liloia  
Nakoa & Sarah Reed  
Rick & Ryan Rollins



- 19 John & Karlynne Bradley
- 21 Michael & Jill Salvatore
- 22 David & Mariya Stecklair
- 23 Bob & Charlene Borgersen
- 26 Bill & Kristen Armstrong
- 27 Carl & Joanne Pape  
Bryan & Cathleen Skupien
- 29 Marc & Stacie Nagtegaal
- 30 Ted & Dorothy Dorofee

## Are You Willing to Share Your Gift?

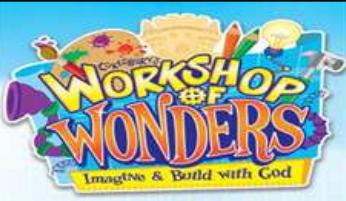
As some of you may have heard, we are unexpectedly in the position of needing to add new members to our praise band for the 11 o'clock service. We would like to invite anyone who would like to share their gift of music to join Maria, Curt, and Pam. Specifically, we are looking for a guitarist, bass guitarist, and keyboard player. There is also the possibility of adding some vocalists and other musicians as well. What is required? A willingness to learn and grow, commitment for rehearsal and Sunday morning, and most importantly, a love for the Lord and desire to serve. If you would like more information or are interested, please see Pastor Doug, Maria Kreh, Curt Bobzin, or Pam Runyan.

## Family Promise News!

**Ladies! Coach Bag Bingo** will be right here in Mantua at the Incarnation Church. The doors open at 5:30 pm on Saturday, September 20. Get your friends together for an evening of fun. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased from Janet Fuhrer or Gail Slimm.

**Family Promise Guests will arrive once again** On September 14th. A sign up board will be in the Narthex. Please prayfully consider helping. Our volunteer pool is dwindling. The UCMC made a commitment several years ago to take on this mission to help the homeless in Gloucester County. Never been involved and have questions see Janet Fuhrer, Jan Fuhrer (856-848-9986)or Pastor Doug.

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2014

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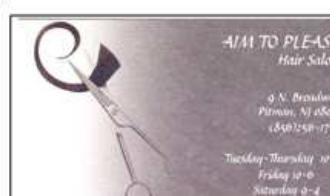
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## Small Group Meetings

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

Come see what it's all about!



**SUNDAY  
NIGHT  
LIFE**  
At  
**Chestnut Branch Park**  
**September 28th at**  
**6:00 pm**



# The Coffee House

at Mantua UMC Welcomes

Kira Shcherbakova

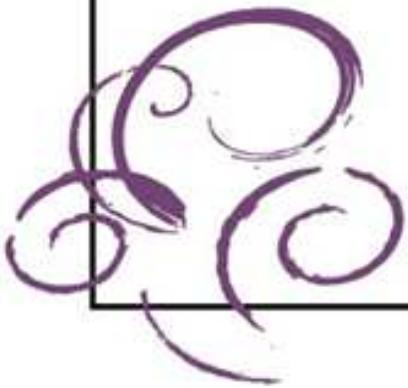


## What people are saying:

"Kira is a wonderful singer with uncommon compassion for Christian music ..."

"... an incredible ability to communicate..."

"She has the touch of God's Spirit on her life and music."



Friday, September 19th, 7:30pm  
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)

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



**Back to School Event!** Please join us September 6th in preparing the classrooms for another year of Sunday School! We will be rearranging furniture and supplies and can certainly use your help. Please contact Jenise Fraser or Susan Fuchs for more information.

**The District Superintendent Installation Service and Reception** will be held at the UMC of Mantua on September 21, at 6:00 pm. Please come out and help us welcome Rev. Myrna Bethke as our new DS!

**Nursery Attendant Position Available** The Nursery is in need of a new attendant to work during the 9:15 am and/or the 11:00 am services. Please see Jenise Fraser (218-7802) if you are interested in applying.

If you or a family member is in need of receiving communion at home, please notify the office as soon as possible. Thank you!