

The Vine

From Pastor Doug

I wanted to use this month's article to take the opportunity to thank all of you who helped support our church mission trip to Steubenville, Ohio. Once again, it was a great experience for all who participated. I think that all who were there grew closer to each other and to the Lord through the opportunities we had to minister. During the mission trip, we accomplished the following:

1. Helped to correct some painting done by a previous mission team at one house by doing a second coat, as well as painting a fence and steps. We also fixed a loose railing.
2. Power-washed a house, painted the porch, did some yard work, and fixed the back porch ceiling.
3. Painted a porch and windows at another house.
4. Painted a deck, painted a porch and trim, trimmed some bushes, and cleaned window wells at another house.
5. Shopped for school supplies, sorted school supplies, and stuffed over 800 backpacks.
6. Did mowing and weeding at the JOSHUA House.
7. Hung a bulletin board and a couple doors.
8. Worked in the soup kitchen for two days.
9. Worked in the food warehouse for three days.

We shared devotions every night and had some time for fun as well. On Friday, we spent the day at Ken-nywood, an amusement park outside of Pittsburgh.

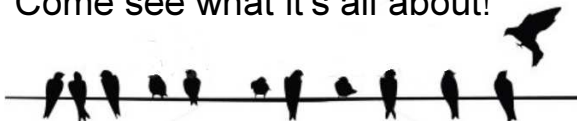
We were hosted by Bell's Chapel UMC where we were served breakfast on Monday and dinner on Thursday, after which we shared with them in our closing and communion. We had the added benefit this year of returning to our host church from last year, Greater Zion Temple, where we had dinner on Tuesday night and breakfast on Thursday. It was a blessing to not have to prepare those meals since there were 36 of us.

Apart from having some trouble with the church van brakes, everything went very well. What a wonderful opportunity to share God's love through service to others. Thanks again to all for the support and prayers!

Small Group Meetings

every Wed 7:00 pm at The Miller's
and every Wed 7:00 pm at The Histan's
Young Men Only Fridays 6:00 pm at Tyler Baitinger's

Come see what it's all about!



Sunday Night Life
September 20
6:00 pm

Check out our new page on the web!

www.mantuaumc.org/opportunities/sundaynightlife



Zumba with Paula

Bring Yoga Mat/Hand Weights

\$5 per class



Zumba classes

Mondays Time TBD \$5 per class

Upcoming Classes

September 14, 21, 28

Calling All Acolytes! It's that Time Again!!

Acolytes is a ministry for all 4th through 6th graders who would like to assist in leading worship. Acolytes light the candles, assist with Baptism and Communion, and read the scripture for Sunday morning. We also meet two times per month for an activity, fellowship, and Bible time. Acolytes will begin on Sunday, September 13 at 5:30 PM and Sunday, September 27 at 5:30 PM for orientation. Acolytes will begin to serve on Sunday, October 4. For more info. or if you have questions, see Pastor Doug.

UMM Hoagie Sale! The United Methodist Men are having a Hoagie Fundraiser. Orders may be placed August 30, September 6 & 13 with delivery on September 20th. Please watch your bulletins for details!

American Red Cross Blood Drive In Honor of Angela Daniels September 21st 2:30-7:30 pm



MTV Painless Fundraiser

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



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!

2014 Average Weekly Gift Card Purchases

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
\$558	\$427	\$357	\$488

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

September 2015 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.

UTNA-NAPISHTIM

THE BACKGROUND

In a previous paper (Alligators in the Sewer) I wrote of a myth being based in reality. We must remember that some of the Biblical episodes were unsupportable---therefore, myths. Archeological excavations have provided the physical evidence taking the Bible from a collection of myths to reality. Much of this supporting evidence surfaced from apparent large dirt mounds---the remains of destroyed cities and temples. The records were recorded on baked clay tablets untouched by catastrophic fire or water. At one point, around the time of Moses, the more durable records were replaced by records on papyrus and animal skins---prone to destruction in adverse conditions---resulted in large Biblical History vacancies. Hence, the Bible was considered a book of myths. Some have to see evidence to believe.

THE LEGEND

The Epic of Gilgamesh---@2700 BCE---is around the earliest known written story. It contains The Flood of Gilgamesh---written in Sumerian---featuring the Flood Hero---Utna-pishtim. According to the legend, the hero was approached by Ea, one of the ancient gods. Enlil, a dangerous god, had decided to destroy all persons with a Great Flood. Utna-pishtim was a pious man, Ea addressed as Man of Shurippak, as he spoke to him in his house of reeds. The warning included building a ship to carry all animals and seeds. The survival of all existing life was in his hands. Following the instructions of El, Utna-pishtim constructed the ship---constructed with reeds, sheltered by a full roof, providing various levels for living and storage complete with food stocks---human, animal and plants were to be preserved. The final moment arrived. All living things were in the ship. It was sealed shut. The storm's fury began---those outside were doomed to perish---their nostrils filled with suffocating liquid.

The storm mercifully ended. Enlil---who ordered the destruction---relented. Ishtar, pagan goddess credited as the mother of all humanity, mourned the loss of her children---"drowned like fish". In remorse for his thoughtless deed, the wicked god Enlil granted Utna-pishtim and his family eternal life.

GEORGE SMITH (ASSYRIOLOGIST)

In 1872 George Smith published an account of the above document. Smith had a natural talent for translating the cuneiform-type writing found in Iraq. The parallel to The "Gilgamesh Book of Noah" translation awarded him instant recognition. In March 1876 Smith went---on what was to be his last expedition---in search of Shurippak. Aleppo's plague ended his life. Queen Victoria granted a small 150 Pound annuity to his widow and several children.

JUNE 1902: THE QUEST CONTINUES

Fara, a swampy area in Iraq (Mesopotamia) is all that remains to Germany for archeological exploration. The surface view unpromising in all aspects---140 degrees day temperatures, humidity so thick it is almost tangible to the touch, mosquito-ridden marshes providing perfect habitat for diseases such as malaria all accompanied by soil and grass infested with poisonous snakes and other reptiles---were only part of the problem. The area had permanent human population hostile to intruders but open to bribes---reed-hut dwellers known as Marsh Arabs. Reed growth made transportation almost impossible---remedied by driving water buffalo making openings as they crushed the dense reed growth in their way.

"THE FIND OF THE CENTURY"

Tablets were found buried deep in the swamp mud---tablets the German Archeologists found to be unfired clay. Speculation: the writer had no time to fire them---he was trapped by The Great Flood. Anton Deimel's report identified the finding in 1923. The current Fara location was on the site of---

SHURIPPAK!!!

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 3rd through 8th grades - Sundays immediately following 9:15 am 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 CHOIR Thursday nights @ 6:30 pm
?? - call Mrs. Amy Stanton, 468-9298

Cherub and Senior Choirs will begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 10.
Junior Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 13.
Anyone interested in just singing in the Christmas Cantata should contact
Kathy Durand for further information.



Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes—2015

It is that time of year again—when we begin thinking about collecting items for shoe box gifts for children to be distributed throughout the world by Samaritan's Purse. It is extremely critical to reach out to those children whose lives are being devastated because they are Christian. Thousands of children are living in camps with only canvas protecting them from the weather—under conditions that are difficult for us to even imagine. For some, the shoe box gifts they receive will probably be the only gift they get.

I can't help but look back on my own Sunday School days and singing "Jesus Loves the Little Children" - the song continues with "all the children of the World; red and yellow, black and white they are precious in his sight", etc. Through these small boxes of treasures and "The Glorious Journey" a book which they receive, precious children are being told and shown about Jesus and His Love. It is awesome that we have an opportunity to be a part of that blessing.

Empty shoe boxes are available and will be placed throughout the Church for you to take and use. A list of suggested items follows this article. Please not those items that are prohibited as well.

Last year, as a Church Family, we were able to send 151 boxes. Each year we try to exceed our previous year's total even if it is only by one more than the year before. We will be collecting Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes during the month of October to be forwarded to the distribution center in November. We appreciate your continued support. Gail Slimm and the JUG Class.

Suggested Gifts:

Toys: Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yo's, jump ropes, small etch a sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), slinky, etc

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, coloring books, writing pads or paper, solar calculators

Hygiene Items: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, washcloth, etc.

Other: hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum, sunglasses, flashlights (with extra batteries), ball caps, socks, T-shirts, toy jewelry, hair clips, watches, small picture books, etc.

DO NOT Include the following:

Used Items

War-related Items: toy guns, knives, etc.

Chocolate or perishable food items

Liquids: shampoo, lotion, bubbles, etc.

Medicines: vitamins, cough drops, ointment, etc.

Breakable Items: mirrors, china dolls, snow globes, etc.

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 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
- 15 Vanessa Friedman
- 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 Histan
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 Guarrera
- 15 Kim & Danielle Kraft
Ted & Amy Popecki
- 16 Bob & Muriel Lisle
- 17 Michael & Dawn Liloia
Rick & Ryan Rollins



- 19 John & Karlynn 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



The Coffee House

at Mantua UMC Welcomes

Adams Family Gospel Group

Friday, Sept. 18th
7:30pm
Free Admission
Free Coffee, Tea,
Baked Goods!

A group with a vision to encourage people to interact in their relationship with Christ and allow them to come to know him better through music and worship.



Come in and listen to the "Traditional" sound of Gospel music with the Adams Family Gospel Group from Chester, Pennsylvania. The group will be performing music from their new CD. This promises to be an unforgettable evening you won't want to miss!!

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

Check out www.mantuaumc.org for more info
or email mariakreh@gmail.com

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

BONUS VBS Night!

September 1

6:00—8:00 pm

Dinner * Music * Fun & Games



**Collingswood Manor
Family Fun Day
September 26
10 am—2 pm**

**Music & Meditation
Children's Games
Prizes
Dunk Tank
Silent Auction
DJ
Fun Run/Walk
Food available for purchase**

*\$10 for individual
\$25 per family up to
four members*

Register by September 1st
and receive a \$5 discount!
collingswood-manor.umh-nj.org

Proceeds go to the
Fellowship Fund Foundation

Seminar & Luncheon
Even the Demons Believe
Presented by Rev. Dr. Richard Leaver
October 17, 2015
Beginning at 8:30 am

The seminar will be an exploration seeking answers for the misunderstanding and assumptions many have about Christian healing. We will learn about certain concepts that even Christians presume are the identical, but theologically speaking, they are not the same at all. That insight may clear up many issues for us.

Please contact the church office for registration information. 856-468-2711

Realville Youth Group Update... Start up on 9/13/15

We had a lot going on during Spring/Summer time!!!

We were planning 4 fundraisers during this time and due to the Starliter's play, the big storm and the Missions Trip.....

Only 1 happened...

30 Hour Famine – I ran into to a work schedule issue and we are working out a new weekend.

Disney Breakfast - Thank you to all that helped and those families that came out. The kids looked fabulous and the food was great!!

Realville Sock Hop - October 3rd

Silent Youth Auction – we have a few youth that were never bid on.... So I am restarting it!!!! Final bids for our hard workers is Sept 19th!

Realville Youth – Missions Trip

We had a very successful Missions Trip to The Joshua Project in Steubenville, OH, 36 youth and adults made the trip this year. It was nice to get out there and have projects ready for us. We spent less time this year in the Warehouse/Pantry and Kitchen, but we still worked very hard in the office with the backpacks. We were not there this year for the Back to School Rally, but we helped them with packing and organizing backpacks and they have close to a 1000 backpacks for the local kids to hand out. We helped at least 10 families/ businesses (maybe more) this year – we did a lot of scrapping, painting , fixing windows, doors and whatever they needed!!! We came back to our house and cleaned up, ate and had fun playing games, reading and relaxing. We sang worship music this year with our devotions and talked about the families with worked with that day. We had two churches feeding us this week – lots of great food!!! It was a moving experience when our youth stood up and talked about there experiences during our closing ceremonies. It was a very successful Missions Trip – we would like to say Thank you to all the churches that supported us and helped us get to Steubenville this year!!!!



What is Sunday Night Life?

Sunday Night Life originally began as a monthly worship celebration of our various small groups 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 small group 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.

We usually meet at the United Methodist Church of Mantua in either the fellowship hall, or one of the larger rooms downstairs, but we have taken SNL on the road! We've held SNL at Chestnut Branch Park, the Barnsboro United Methodist Church as well as the New Sharon United Methodist Church. There are plans for other venues this year including more celebrations outside when the weather permits. Starting in October we will be gathering twice monthly; the evenings of the first and third Sundays of each month. Every worship celebration ends with communion.

If you are seeking a more focused time of worship in an informal setting, join us for Sunday Night Life. Check the church calendar for dates and venue changes.

2015 Sunday Night Life Schedule

September 20th Worship at 6:00 pm at Chestnut Branch Park
October 4th Worship at 6:00 pm
October 18th Worship at 6:00 pm
November 1st Worship at 6:00 pm
November 15th Worship at 6:00 pm



FISHING

SAVE THE DATE

***Open Door Ministries
Fishing Trip
September 26, 2015***

Watch for more details!



Sunday School Begins September 13 at 11:00 am

Please thank our sponsors by patronizing their businesses.

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