

The Vine

From Pastor Doug

Many of you are not aware that at our last Church Conference meeting, we established a permanent endowment fund for our church. I will quote from the stated purpose of the fund. "The fund is established for the purpose of providing members and friends the opportunity to make charitable gifts to The UMC of Mantua that will become a permanent endowment of financial support and a living memorial." This fund is different from the Memorial Fund. The Memorial Fund is used to remember the lives of people who were connected to our church. The funds are used to purchase a specific item, and once spent, the funds are no longer there. Typically, these gifts come from family members, church members, and friends outside of the church who want to contribute in a way other than flowers, etc., and a particular item is purchased in memory of the person. This opportunity will still exist.

The Endowment fund is a new opportunity that can be used in a similar, but different way. The Endowment fund can receive gifts from people who would like to support it while still living. These gifts would be in addition to, not instead of gifts to the regular offering. They could be used to honor someone or remember someone much like many of you have done for the kitchen fund. The other way that the Endowment fund can be funded is through receiving bequests from your estate. I know most of us don't like to think about that time in our lives, but all of us at some point will get there. I hope that you will consider remembering the United Methodist Church of Mantua in your will. By doing so, you will insure that the ministry of our church will continue long into the future for our children and our children's children. There are many ways to leave these gifts; bequests, retirement plans, life insurance, living trusts, Charitable gift annuities, Charitable lead trusts, or charitable remainder trusts. If you have not considered the church in your will and would like to make a change, or if you don't have a will, we will be offering an opportunity in the fall for you to meet with an attorney to make changes, establish a trust, or create a will.

The money received will be invested by our Endowment team in the Conference Stewardship Foundation which offers competitive returns while investing in companies that have values in line with our United Methodist Social Principles. Once the endowment fund reaches \$50,000.00, we will use the interest only in the following manner: 20% will be used for Missions, 65% toward building needs like roofs, the parking lot, etc., and 15% of the interest will be reinvested to help the fund grow.

This is a great opportunity to provide on-going ministry for our church that has meant so much to so many people in Mantua over the years. We will continue to be able to make disciples for Jesus Christ through the gifts to this fund. I hope that you will prayerfully consider how you might provide support for this new fund and its ministry. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the church office.

The efforts of the United Methodist Church have always been greatly appreciated and their support of the community blood program will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives.

In addition, we very much appreciate your efforts during this crucial time. You may be interested to know that 33 donors registered, 6 donors were deferred and 29 units were collected! We also registered one first time donor!

Again, thank you for your contribution and ongoing support of this important community program. I look forward to working with you again on an upcoming blood drive.

- American Red Cross



Witness News and Rock the Block Recap

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank ALL of you who participated in our community event. Whether you helped me schedule events, had a booth showcasing your ministry, worked very hard in the kitchen, set up, break down, prayer, thoughts, etc. Thank you. In regards to next year, I will make sure that sign ups and any other information will be more readily available. For that, I apologize. It is my "job" as Witness Chair to find a way to "advertise" our church. That is really the short and sweet of my job description. This church makes it easy for me to do because there are just so many ministries within our church! We truly are a blessed church family! There are so many things we do together as a church family and I am always excited to tell people where I attend simply because of the LIFE inside our church walls!

Now to recap the block party – I decided to scale back and focus on OUR CHURCH. We all seem to go back to that first year where so many people came out, literally in droves...It was as God intended. As the years went on the block party shaped into an event outside of what was originally intended. To be honest, all I could think about was how to bring in money, hence all of the craft vendors that we had, \$30/spot...In return all the craft vendors could think about was, I did not sell enough. People would complain, they would tell me what they were going to do next year, etc. Then I had a vision of when Jesus flipped the tables in the temple, how angry he was that a place of worship became about trade and money and material things. I felt that the block party became something he would not be pleased with. So, I spoke with Pastor Doug and told him that I would like to see all of our ministries outside, games for the kids, face painting, live music, etc.

Was it smaller? YES. I had many tell me that no one stopped at their table to ask questions or show interest and anyone that did stop at the table was a member of the church to talk. Guess what? That is OK. You were there! You were out there for if and when that ONE person had a question to ask. Who is to say someone was not ministered to? Elda Barger told me that while no one stopped by to ask questions, there was a little girl who wanted a bible. She wanted that bible so bad that she actually came back with her mother to get it. To me, that was worth it! **In Matthew 18:20 it says "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them". CAN YOU GIVE ME AN AMEN?** That's right, even if only one little girl stopped by and got a bible we were doing what we were called to do and HE WAS WITH US THE WHOLE TIME! I know it can be discouraging because you are excited about your ministry and you want to talk about it but it is OK because we are doing what we are called to do. We opened the doors to our church; we fed the community and had some great fellowship. Please do not be discouraged, if anything I feel that this year's block party was one of the most successful.

Now, I want to take a few minutes to discuss my plans for Witness. I have ended the FNCH ministry. While it was dear to my heart I felt compelled to move on. After 9 years and 72 coffee houses I met some incredible talent and followers of Christ. I was humbled to be in their presence and I thank God for the opportunity to have opened up our doors. I want you to know that while I may have ended the coffee houses my mind is going in full speed on what I can do next to showcase our church, our family and the love within. I am open to any suggestions and ideas and would love to hear from you.

Peace <><
Maria Kreh

Wawa Hoagie Coupons! The JUG Class is selling Wawa Hoagie Coupons. They make great small gifts! Your purchase helps support JUG projects and is sincerely appreciated.

FAMILY PROMISE—OUTREACH—MANTUA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This program designed to help homeless children and their families get back on their feet was started over 26 years ago by Karen Olson the founder of Family Promise. She had a dream and made it come true. Six years ago, we had a dream here at the United Methodist Church of Mantua. We had the facility and the willingness to provide care for the many guests who would come through our doors. We had many volunteers willing to share their time. Over the last 12 months, we have had trouble filling the minimum 42 volunteers needed for the week our guests were with us and Church of the Incarnation came on board as our support church with their volunteers. They are actually taking 4 days and that leaves us just 3 days. Every week is different. We had 13 guests in June but, some weeks we have 4 or 5 guests. We still need the same number of volunteers.

Every host week for our three days we need volunteers: 7 drivers AM & PM, 3 or more dinner hosts (the larger the group additional cooks needed), 3 or more evening hosts (the larger the group additional hosts needed), and 6 overnight hosts (we always need 2 volunteers).

Jan and I have decided to retire as coordinators at the end of 2017. It is our prayer that someone will want to see this outreach program continue. We are both available anytime to discuss any questions or concerns.

Jan & Janet Fuhrer

Calling all women!



You are invited to come “Fill Your Cup” on **Saturday morning September 23rd** beginning at 10 AM. Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, get to know other women of our church, and fill your spirit with God’s love. Think about inviting a friend who may be searching to find God in their own life. Please fill out and **return the form below** (either put it in the offering plate, or give/mail to Nancy Overton (21 Maple Leaf Drive, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062)) **no later than September 1st**. We hope to see you there!

I plan to attend the “Fill Your Cup” event on Saturday, Sept. 23 at 10 AM

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

I plan to bring _____ guest/s.

Return by Sept. 1st. Either place in the offering plate, or send to:

Nancy Overton

21 Maple Leaf Drive

Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

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!

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**

COMPASSION SUNDAY AT MANTUA UMC: On Sunday, May 21, 2017 an opportunity for child sponsorship through Compassion International was presented to our congregation. Compassion International is an organization dedicated to releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. It is Christ-centered, child-focused, church-based and committed to integrity. There were 17 specific children from various countries, including countries in Africa, Asia, Central America and South America, made available to our congregation. I am happy to report that one of those children, a girl from Brazil, is now sponsored by a local church family. Another child was sponsored by a church family by on-line selection. That means two more children are now receiving educational, nutritional, medical, Bible teaching and other benefits, as well as letters of caring and support. PTL! Although our campaign is over, there are blank applications on the table in the Narthex; and there is always the opportunity to go to "CompassionInternational.com" if you would like to make a difference in a child's life through this median. Thank you for your support. Elda Barger

MILITARY SUPPORT GROUP OF NEW JERSEY: Thank you for the many items you provided for the Military Support Group during a collection in May. These items were taken to their monthly meeting on Thursday, June 8th, by 4 members of the JUG Class. It is always inspiring to attend these meetings and to witness the dedication of those involved and to see all the items collected to support our troops and the military families. The cost of shipping these boxes is about \$25.00 each, so they are also grateful for monetary donations. Prior to the meeting we attended they had received a request for ice pops from a chaplain at an air-base and it was a joy to see the response to that request and know that troops in a very hot area would be happy to receive the ice pops. We will be collecting for this group again in November in conjunction with Veterans Day, but we will accept non-perishable or monetary donations (which will be forwarded immediately) at any time. Thank you for your support. JUG Class

Happy July Birthday!

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Curt Bobzin | 20 | Doris Donat |
| 3 | Rachel Kreh | | Arlene Shute |
| 4 | Nancy Chew | 21 | Debbie Gooch |
| | Chris Freshcoln | | Neil Riggs |
| 10 | Madison Liloia | | Pardam Skalit |
| | John Stewart | 22 | Leonard Donat |
| 11 | Shawn Blubaugh | 23 | Anthony String Sr. |
| | George Davis, Jr. | 24 | Kendall Munch |
| | Abriana Godsey | | Cassie Vincent |
| 12 | Danyeale Brickner | 25 | Todd Heston |
| | Walter Seehousz | | Vicky Stens |
| 13 | Ruth McManany | 26 | John Brickner |
| | Jennifer Wardrop | | David Donat |
| 14 | Cassie Anderson | | Ryan Lisle |
| | Sophie Rollins | | Addison Shannon |
| 16 | Maria Kreh | 28 | Jennifer Jameson |
| | Aaron Miller | 30 | Ann Godsey |
| 17 | Robin Dole | | Emily Sullivan |
| | Dorothy Frazier | 31 | Fred Patane |
| | Bobby Grabert | | Gail Slimm |
| | Lillian Howey | | |
| 18 | William Cundey | | |
| | Gerry Kemner | | |
| | Kaitlyn Toppin | | |

Happy August Birthday!

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Lauren Rosenberger | 15 | Bob Bufala |
| | Viola Yeager | | Pam Runyan |
| 3 | Luke Farace | 16 | Emily Godsey |
| | Kaden Kraft | | Rachael Raively |
| | Jeff Kreh | 20 | Colin Ewan |
| | Ryan Toppin | | Ted Popecki |
| 4 | Nina Brickner | 23 | Linda Fraser |
| | Denise Maden | 24 | Luca Biglin |
| 5 | Dylan Borgersen | | Terri Smith |
| | Dot Dorofee | | Kaylee Wagner |
| | Joel Seabo | 26 | Kathy Durand |
| 6 | Joel Shutman | | Nick Farace |
| 8 | Jacob Guarrera | 27 | Charlene Borgersen |
| | Rebecca Litle | | Emma DeHaas |
| | Harrison Wescott | | Cindy Hall |
| 9 | Alyssa Kruithof | 29 | Jamie Fink |
| 10 | Ashley Blubaugh | 30 | Joe Daniels |
| | Caitlin Humble | 31 | Chris Grabert |
| | Bryan Tobin | | Gavin Hoskins |
| | Avery Wyckoff | | Ricky Sullivan |
| 11 | Ryan Jameson | 31 | Tabitha Campbell |
| 12 | Justin Preece | | |
| 14 | Jacqueline Sepsey | | |



Happy July Anniversary

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 8 | Jeff & Heather DeHaas |
| 10 | Wayne & Alice Hstand |
| 13 | Wayne & Tricia Eckert |
| 17 | Jeff & Maria Kreh |
| 18 | Robert & Denise Maden |
| 19 | James & Lynn Jameson |
| 20 | Todd & Debbie Hickman |
| 21 | James & Laurie Kruithof |
| | Marc & Wilma Nagtegaal |
| 25 | Anthony & Shannon String Sr. |
| 26 | Gunnar & Moira Fox |



Happy August Anniversary

- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 7 | Nick & Jackie Farace |
| 8 | Ed & Heather Szychoski |
| 9 | Carl & Patricia Wyckoff |
| 13 | Walt & Sue Seibel |
| 15 | Craig & Linda Rudisill |
| 16 | Michael & Wendy DiSalvio |
| 17 | John & Jessica DeGirolamo |
| 20 | Steve & Bonnie Fearon |
| 21 | Kevin & Jennifer Kraft |
| | Bob & Lisa Thren |
| 25 | Rob & Patti Smith |
| 28 | Ed & Joyce Wescott |

Please thank our sponsors by patronizing their businesses.



Daniel N. Smith Jr. NJ Lic. No. 4684
 Daniel N. Smith Sr. NJ Lic. No. 3263
 Manager
 Douglas W. Wagner NJ Lic. No. 4578
 Funeral Director

47 Main Street ~ Mantua, NJ 08051

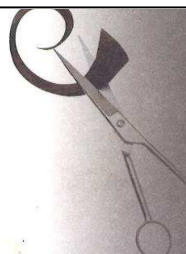
Fax: 856-468-0672

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

(856) 468-0670

Nester & Wyckoff
 General Dentistry For The Entire Family

200 East Mantua Avenue • Wenonah NJ 08090
 856-468-5858 • 856-468-9098 fax
 southjerseydental.com



AIM TO PLEASE
 Hair Salon

9 N. Broadway
 Pitman, NJ 08071
 (856) 250-1710

Tuesday-Thursday 10-8
 Friday 10-6
 Saturday 9-4

Shute's Enterprise (856) 456-2675



BAT - A - RAMA

600 Gateway Blvd. (Rt. 45)
 Westville, NJ 08093
 Indoor Batting Range & Pro Shop
 Baseball & Softball
 Camps, Clinics
 Private Lessons

George

bat-a-rama.com

Arlene

MAYTAG
 KitchenAid

Frigidaire



Jenn-Air
 Whirlpool

WOODBURY
 Appliance

Hours: Mon & Thurs 8 am - 7 pm
 Tues, Wed, Fri 8 am - 5 pm
 Sat 8:30 am - 3 pm

JOE THURSTON
 SALES

753 Mantua Avenue, Woodbury, NJ 08096
 (856) 845-3710 • Fax (856) 845-9128
 www.woodburyappliance.com