

# The Vine

## ***I Am the New Year***

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.  
I am your next chance at the art of living.  
I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about  
life during the last twelve months.  
All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for  
you to search it out with more determination.  
All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to  
grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.  
All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped  
but did not will,  
all the faith you claimed but did not have—these slumber lightly,  
waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.  
I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said,  
“Behold, I make all things new.” I am the new year.

Pastor Doug



Thank you to all of our Church family for all of the cards and gifts that you shared with us at Christmas. We love all of you!

Pastor Doug, Pam, Justin, Tyler, and Kristin

## *Confirmation Classes!*

Confirmation begins on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. This is a meeting for all youth 7<sup>th</sup> grade and above who have not yet become members of the church and would like to do so. Confirmation will be held two times per month on Thursday evenings. There are some additional trips as well. The first meeting is an informational meeting for youth and parents. The meeting will be to answer any questions you may have. At the end of the class, each person will decide whether they would like to become a member of the church. We will meet in the youth room. If you would like more information, please see Pastor Doug.

*Thank you for all of your Christmas greetings and gifts given to me and my family this year. We pray that God surrounds you with family and friends, the sound of laughter, the warmth of love, and the wonder of a child this Christmas and the New Year.*

*~ Becky, Bob, Kaitie, Emily & Meghan Langer*



## **Godspell Junior**

**Presented by the Spotliters**

**February 3 & 4      8:00 pm**

**February 10 & 11    8:00 pm**

**February 5 & 12     3:00 pm**

**Tickets \$14 \* Children 12 & Under \$13 \* Seniors 60 and over \$13**

**All Performances Held at:**

**The United Methodist Church of Mantua  
201 Mantua Blvd, Mantua, NJ 08051**

**Spotliters.com \* 856.589.8665**

## A NOTE FROM FAMILY FUN

I just wanted to thank everyone that volunteered and/or attended the "Ugly Sweater Christmas Party". Special Thanks to all who volunteered their time- decorating, kitchen duty, cooking/baking skills, errands, clean up, etc. There are so many special people in this church that support Family Fun- this past year has really been so much... FUN!!!

I cannot thank you enough for all of your time, love and support.

- Kimberly Wagner  
Children's Coordinator

For 2012, Family Fun will be hosting our six most popular events! Please continue to check the [mantuaumc.org](http://mantuaumc.org) website for updates on upcoming events.

February	Sun, Feb 19th	Bowling Party
April	Sat, April 7th	Easter Party
September	Sun, Sept 16th	Ice Cream Social & Games
October	Sat, Oct 20th (Oct. 27th rain date)	Trunk or Treat
December	Sun, Dec 16th	Happy Birthday Jesus Party Theme: "Crazy Hat & Karaoke"

**NEW VINE FEATURE!** Just for Fun.... Each month we will have an article just for fun. If you have a story or joke (appropriate, of course) that you would like to submit, please send it to [pastordoug@mantuaumc.org](mailto:pastordoug@mantuaumc.org) This month's is called the Preacher's Donkey....

### *The Preacher's Donkey*

A man bought a donkey from a preacher. The preacher told the man that this donkey had been trained in a very unique way (being the donkey of a preacher). The only way to make the donkey go, is to say, "Hallelujah!"

The only way to make the donkey stop, is to say, "Amen!"

The man was pleased with his purchase and immediately got on the animal to try out the preacher's instructions.

"Hallelujah!" shouted the man. The donkey began to trot. "Amen!" shouted the man. The donkey stopped immediately.

"This is great!" said the man. With a "Hallelujah" he rode off, very proud of his new purchase.

The man traveled for a long time through the mountains. As he headed towards a cliff, he tried to remember the word to make the donkey stop.

"Stop," said the man. "Halt!" he cried. The donkey just kept going.

"Oh, no..."

"Bible ... Church! ... Please! Stop!," shouted the man. The donkey just began to trot faster. He was getting closer and closer to the edge of the cliff.

Finally, in desperation, the man said a prayer... "Please, dear Lord. Please make this donkey stop before I go off the end of this mountain In Jesus name, AMEN."

The donkey came to an abrupt stop just one step from the edge of the cliff.

"**HALLELUJAH!**" shouted the man.

# Sunday, Sunday

By William M. Crowley, Educational Research Writer

**2 Timothy 2:15. "Study to show thyself approved unto GOD...rightly dividing the word of truth."**

A researching of the Bible: an exciting, unending learning journey through the well-known and less familiar passages. All are important. Biblical references are KJV unless otherwise noted.

## The Origins of an Enigma (Puzzle)

The origins of the week-days are claimed to be derived from ancient religious cultures. The pagan gods mentioned include Baal in the Bible. The pagan god Baal was mentioned as having devotees from many cultures. Baal, God of the Sun, kept cropping up like a bad case of measles. Many caught it. The Israelites were no exception. There was one beginning that is well known.

### Baal In Israel

To find out we have to go back to the Bible. King Ahab started one series when in 1 Kings 16:31 it states that Ahab treated the occasion "...as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins...he took as his wife Jezebel daughter of King Ethbaal of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him." 1 Kings 16:33, Ahab did more to provoke the anger of the LORD, the GOD of Israel, than had all the kings of Israel who were before him."

### GOD'S Displeasure

Ahab's acts did not go unnoticed by the Prophet Elijah. But, he had to wait for GOD's command to act. A severe punishing drought was burning the land. This was embarrassing to Ahab as Baal, the sun god, was prayed to for the protection of livestock and crops. The land was scorched to a cinder. GOD was letting them know who was really in control. However, in it is stated at one time in 1 Kings 18:4 "...Jezebel was killing off the prophets of the LORD,..." This practice probably continued unabated. People were afraid to oppose Baal and the rulers. The drought made the people's reactions more severe: they made sacrifices of children to Moloch, another pagan god.

### Elijah Is Called

1 Kings 18:22, "Then Elijah said to the people, 'I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets number four hundred fifty'". We know the story. A chosen bull was cut in pieces. 1 Kings 18: "...then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it." 1 Kings 18: 26, "So they took the bull that was given to them, prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, , crying, "O Baal, answer us!' But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped around the altar they had made."The people gave up as Elijah mocked them saying Baal must be asleep, wandered away, or is on another errand. The people cut themselves in remorse. Then Elijah spoke to them about continuing the sacrifice. The sacrifice was soaked three times with water. 1 Kings 18:37, "Answer me O LORD, answer me, so that the people may know that you, O LORD, are GOD, and you have turned their hearts back,"

### The Fire

1 Kings 18:38, "Then the fire of the LORD fell consuming the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench." The LORD obviously was very pleased.

## The Enigma (Puzzle): Origins of the Names of Days

Baal is condemned in the Bible. In the 1<sup>st</sup> century Sabbath (Saturday) was used by early Romans as the first day of the week. As sun worshiping increased, the Sun's Day advanced to #1 position. Today our Church Worship is on Sunday, a pagan based name. No one of the fervent Christians questioned this? So Baal's day lives on. Just a warming thought (Sun) for January.



# The Coffee House

at Mantua UMC Announces

*Open Mic Night!  
Testimony Friday!*

If you have a talent and  
a love for the Lord,  
please come and  
participate in our  
first ever Open Mic Night!

**Friday, Jan. 20th, 7:30pm**

Please email Maria by Jan. 13th  
if you would like to perform!

**Free Admission Free Coffee, Tea, Baked Goods!**

Donations of Baked Goods Gratefully Accepted.

Call Maria if you can help.

**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)



- 1 Debra Heston  
Christina Niemczura  
Florence Porter
- 3 Tom Jennings  
D.J. Jones  
Courtney Oudyk
- 4 Gregory Brickner
- 6 Corrine Brickner  
Lynda Cusano
- 7 David Fuchs
- 12 Paul Brooks  
Carl Kressley  
Jill Salvatore  
Marissa Stewart
- 13 Erica Brickner
- 14 Sarah Reed
- 15 Becky Langer
- 16 Pearl Dickinson  
Delaney Shutman  
Beth Wyatt



- 17 Emma Humble
- 19 Araya Agren  
Gunnar Fox
- 20 Amber Nagtegaal
- 22 Chris Donat  
Sabrina Toomey
- 24 Muriel Lisle  
Laura Scirrotto
- 26 Christian Szychoski
- 27 Bob Borgersen  
Mark Durand  
Lisa Rouh
- 28 Lynn Heiss  
Robert Stetser  
Margaret Trexler
- 29 Darrin Cusano  
Stephanie Overton
- 31 Brandi Leach

- 2 John & Janet Sfaelos
- 4 Mike & Jill Gorman
- 6 James & Mary Brickner
- 9 David & Nancy Pennell
- 16 Darrin & Lynda Cusano
- 27 Robert & Michelle Brickner



Family Promise News! **WE DID IT!!** Your response to help with Family Promise this past week was wonderful. **A Special Thank You** to everyone who volunteered. If you were unable to help this time think about our upcoming scheduled week on January 22nd when Family Promise returns to the United Methodist Church of Mantua! ~Jan Fuhrer

Like many, the Christmas season was a hectic, but blessed time for Realville. While we didn't meet much in the traditional since, we were on the move throughout the month of December. The advent was season was full, but highlighting the time was the Christmas party and ice skating; both were incredible times with memories that we'll share for some time to come.

Now, as the Christmas season winds down and we begin to look toward the New Year, we have quite a bit in store for the coming weeks. We here in the youth group will be kicking the year off right with another packed schedule. We have a lock in, Midwinter Advance, and a Chick-fil-a fundraiser to look forward to this coming month. The fundraiser is the first of many to help us raise the money to go on our summer mission trip, this year to up-state New York.

I've been blessed with an incredible youth group and look forward to celebrating the coming year by serving Mantua and the youth. May God bless you this holiday season and into the New Year.

**Weight Loss Challenge** is back! We had a successful group during our last session. This challenge we are going to change things up a little bit. This session will be 12 weeks, but you need to register and we need a minimum of 10 participants. Please contact Dan & Ann Yowell for more information 856.464.0537 or D-Yowell@hotmail.com

<p>Mark W. Nester, D.M.D. Keith G. Wyckoff, D.M.D. Carl K. Wyckoff, III, D.D.S.</p> <hr/> <p>General Dentistry</p> <p>200 East Mantua Avenue Wenonah, New Jersey 08090 Telephone 856-468-5858 Fax: 856-468-9098</p> <p>www.southjerseydental.com</p>	<p><b>MAYTAG</b> FRIGIDAIRE WESTINGHOUSE</p> <p><b>Woodbury Appliance, Inc.</b> 753 Mantua Pike Woodbury, New Jersey 08096</p> <p><i>Kitchen Aid Magic Chef</i> Phone: 845-3710 Sales &amp; Service</p>	<p><b>Amara</b> TAPPAN JENN-AIR</p> <p>Shute's Enterprise (856) 456-2675</p> <p><b>BAT - A - RAMA</b> Rt. 45 &amp; Hazel Avenue Westville, NJ 08093 Indoor Batting Range &amp; Pro Shop Baseball &amp; Softball</p> <p>George Arlene</p>	<p><b>PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS. THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO THANK THEM!</b></p>
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