From Pastor Doug…

A Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take 12 whole months. Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate, and jealousy. Make them just as fresh and clean as possible. Now cut each month into 28, 30, or 31 different parts, but don’t make up the whole batch at once. Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part of faith, one part of patience, one part of courage, and one part of work. Add to each day, one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity, and kindness. Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation, and one good deed. Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play, and a cupful of good humor.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love. Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile, and serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness. You’re bound to have a happy new year!

Acolytes

The acolytes will meet on January 11 at 5:30 PM at the church. On January 25, we will go bowling. Meet at 2:00 PM at the church. More details will follow.

Confirmation

Confirmation this year will begin on Thursday, January 8, at 7 PM. We will meet in the Youth Room. The first meeting is for any 7th grade or older youth and their parents to find out what confirmation is all about. Youth will be given the opportunity to decide if they want to be a part of the class this year. Confirmation is designed to inform young people about membership in the United Methodist Church. At the end of the class, they will have the opportunity to make that decision. This year, we would also like to offer the opportunity for adults to be a part of a membership class. It will meet at the same time as confirmation on Thursday evenings. While separate for most discussions, adults will be invited to participate in any of the trips the class goes on. Any parents or adults interested should contact Pastor Doug at 856-468-2711 or talk to him on Sunday.

Also, if any of the members from previous year’s confirmation classes missed the opportunity to go on the trips and would like to go along this year, please let Pastor Doug know.
**Chili Cook-Off**

The United Methodist Men of Mantua will host a chili contest/dinner on February 21st at 6:00 pm. This will be a men's event and an opportunity to gather for fellowship, food and fun. There will be a competition for the best recipe and lots of good food to eat. Other congregations will be participating as well. Come out and support the men's ministry here in Mantua! Please see or contact Keith Wyckoff if you have any questions: 856-537-7656

**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. Currently, Pastor Gene is leading a study on Biblical miracles. All are welcome. If you have any questions, contact the Church office at 468-2711 or call 468-5549.

**Valentine’s Day Cards for Pitman Manor** residents will be in McConnell Hall beginning January 18th. Please stop by and sign a card, it may be the only one they receive.

**J.U.G. Class**

The photos of the J.U.G. Class were taken 50 years apart—December, 1964 and December 2, 2014. There are four members who are in both photos. Can you pick them out?

The J.U.G. Class was started in October, 1950 by Elizabeth “Libby” DeCesari. Her loving memory and teachings have inspired the class for over 40 years. Elda Brickner-Barger is current teacher. Ann Newcomb is President of the Class and has been for many years, as well as the other officers: Viola Yeager, Vice President; Nancy Chew, Recording Secretary, Colleen McIntire, Corresponding Secretary and Nina Brickner, Treasurer. Nina recently retired and Dolly Hogan is now our Treasurer and newest officer. The class has also been blessed with many other supportive members who actively participate and support class activities. God has truly blessed us over these 64 years as we have sought to serve Jesus and others in His Love.
HEROD’S LAST TEN YEARS

Mathew 2:16, “… Herod,...sent...,and slew all the children...in Bethlehem, and the coasts…”

No official records found to support this passage. Skeptics dispute it. The question: Is it true?

In the beginning. He was not a Jew. Idumeans (Edomites) were forced into to Judaism by John Hyrcanus’s conquest in 140-130 B.C.E. Roman Governor of Galilee at 25, Herod’s brutality earned Sanhedrin censor. Exiled to Rome with his brother’s overthrow, he returned in two years with Rome’s support.

King of the Jews? Herod was, The History of the Jewish People (page 74) states, not a Jewish King. Before throne ascension, The Roman Senate declared him “King.” He ruled with merciless, maniacal fervor.

The Reign Begins. As strategos of Galilee, Herod married Doris, an Idumean, who bore his son, Antipater. To add Jewish influence later, he married a Hasmonean Princess Mariamne (Mariamne 1) exiling Doris and Antipater. His subsequent execution of several Hasmonean family members provoked Mariamne’s ferocity. Her openly hostile activity condemned her to execution in 29 B.C.E. Herod grieved bitterly for many months. Being Herod’s favorite provided no immunity; one commented it was safer to be Herod’s pig than a relative.

The Last Ten Years. The ending became worse. The atmosphere was thick with Salome’s suspicions and intrigues. Vicious rumors of possible threats to the throne energized him to mount defenses from his deathbed. Disgustingly obsessed, threatening shadows punished anyone.

Venom’s Deadly Price. Herod’s two sons by Mariamne: Alexander and Aristobulus, were both destined to rule. Alexander married a Cappadocian Princess; Aristobulus was blessed with---Salome’s (the political schemer’s) daughter. The Hasmonean and Idumean family unification fit the policy goal; not so with Salome, a well-practiced mischief-maker. Quickly reacting with sordid plots produced chaos upsetting reunification. A murky unrest based on lies and deceit indicted both sons on capital charges. The verdict: Guilty; the sentence: Death by strangulation. Misery loves company. Antipater, Doris’ son facing the lethal web’s poisonous evidence, was strangled.

Finis.

His Last Breath. Scholars leading a mob, tore down the Temple Gate Eagles. Herod, rose from his deathbed, subdued the rioters, viciously ordering the scholars to be--- burnt alive. His last gasp followed--- un lamented by all.

Why Only in the Bible? The Bible researcher’s judgment is:
The slaughter of the innocents, so intolerable, was censored from all official reports. Thus the Romans followed the practice of prior civilizations by omitting the incident from all records.

GOD remembers. The Bible tells. Do we really listen---or just criticize---or care?
Happy January Birthday

1  Debra Heston
   Christina Niemczura
   Florence Porter
3  Tom Jennings
   Courtney Oudyk
4  Gregory Brickner
6  Corrine Brickner
   Lynda Cusano
7  Robbie Dickson
   David Fuchs
8  Penny Kirkbride
12 Paul Brooks
   Carl Kressley
   Jill Salvatore
   Marissa Stewart
14 Sarah Reed
15 Becky Langer
   Frank Rohrman
16 Pearl Dickinson
   Aaron Hickman
   Delaney Shutman
   Beth Wyatt
17 Emma Humble
19 Araya Agren
   Gunnar Fox
20 Amber Nagtegaal
22 Chris Donat
24 Muriel Lisle
25 Karen Dickel
27 Bob Borgersen
   Mark Durand
   Lisa Rouh
28 Lynn Heiss
   Robert Stetser
   Margaret Trexler
29 Darrin Cusano
   Stephanie Hall
31 Brandi Leach

Happy January Anniversary

2  John & Janet Sfaelos
4  Mike & Jill Gorman
6  James & Mary Brickner
9  David & Nancy Pennell
12 Joe & Debbie Daniels
16 Darrin & Lynda Cusano
18 Ken & Lois Green
25 Tom & Kathy Lyons
27 Robert & Michelle Brickner
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!

The Average Weekly Gift Card Purchases
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 1st Quarter</th>
<th>2014 2nd Quarter</th>
<th>2014 3rd Quarter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$558</td>
<td>$427</td>
<td>$357</td>
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—Keep up the Good Work!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!
Bruce Reyher, MTV Treasurer

The Spotliter’s Present

Souper Bowl Sunday is February 1st! Don’t forget to bring in Soups and Stews to help stock the Corinthian Cupboard!

January 30 8:00 pm       February 6 8:00 pm
January 31 8:00 pm       February 7 8:00 pm
February 1 3:00 pm       February 8 3:00 pm

Ticket’s
$15 General Admission
$10 children 12 and under

Please see Becky Langer if you would like to purchase tickets in advance.
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.

Small Group Meetings
Small Group meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm at The Miller’s and on Wednesdays 7:00 pm at Susan Fuch’s
Come see what it’s all about!

SUNDAY NIGHT LIFE
January 18 at 5:00 pm
New Sharon UMC

Do you have Christmas Shopping to do?
Become a Member of UMC Market!
1. Signup at 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.

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. Last 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).
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