

# HILLTOPPER

United Methodist Church of Parsippany

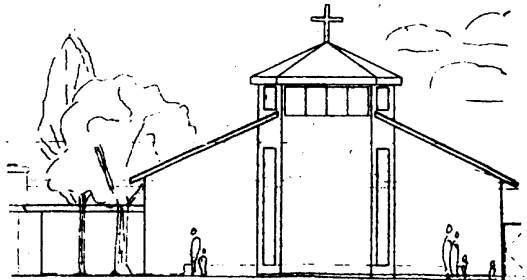
903 So. Beverwyck Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054 (973) 887-4657

http://www.parsippanyumc.com E-Mail: jedwards14@juno.com

*Sunday Worship Celebration: 10:30 a.m.*

*In a hostile, hurting world we reach out to share kindness and laughter. Our spirituality is based on Jesus and his love and compassion. We provide a community of support and healing where all are welcomed and valued regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, disability, gender, or economic status. In a world where people feel they can love only those who are like themselves, we seek to celebrate the uniqueness of every human being.*

*"Making Room in the Circle"*



**SEPTEMBER, 2010**

**Beginning September 12<sup>th</sup>, our worship on Sunday mornings will revert back to 10:30 a.m. - and Sunday School will resume**



A sermon entitled "Safety and Risk" preached by Pastor Jeff on July 4, 2010 based upon Luke 10:1 -11, 17 – 20.

Our Gospel lesson recounts the travel instructions Jesus gave seventy of his followers as he sent them out into the world. One chapter earlier Jesus had given similar instructions to the twelve disciples. A way of life is being described here that is at the heart of Christianity. There is a lot packed into these words of Jesus, so I want to take them a couple of verses at a time:

*After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way.'* (Luke 10:1-3a)

There is this common misconception that sees Christianity as being primarily a set of beliefs. In this view, the criteria for whether or not you are a Christian is based upon whether you can say you believe certain things: *that Jesus is the son of God, that he was born of a virgin, that he died for your sins*: stuff like that. But to see Christianity this way is really unfortunate because it overlooks the fact that **Christianity is first off a distinctive way of living in the world**. In the book of Acts, in fact, the earliest expression used for Christians were "people of the way" – the way of Jesus.

It's a way of life that is undergirded by certain beliefs, but if we publicly profess traditional Christian beliefs and then altogether fail to live the way of life that Jesus calls us to, then we should be brought up on false advertising charges. The beliefs resonate with a distinctive way of life or else the beliefs are meaningless. In its original New Testament form, Christianity was a lot like Alcoholics Anonymous. The 12 steps don't present much in the way of theological belief, referring only to "a higher power however you conceive of it." The key is living the life described in the 12 steps. Believing in the 12 steps but not practicing them is meaningless.

One of my heroes is **St. Francis of Assisi**. Jesus' traveling instructions were pretty central to Francis and the order of Franciscans he established. He practiced radical simplicity and went forth

offering God's peace. Francis once said, "Go into the world and preach the Gospel. Use words if you have to." The idea being that the Gospel is best expressed in a way of life.

"The harvest is plentiful," said Jesus, "but the laborers are few."

There's a story in the summer edition of *The Upper Room* in which a middle-aged woman describes how late one night she accidentally locked herself out of her home in a semi-rural community, forcing her to drive some distance to a friend's house where a second pair of her house keys were stored.

As she was driving down a lonely, dark road, she happened to pass a girl of about 14 or 15 walking alone down the side of the road. The girl out alone in the cold caught the woman's attention, but she was long accustomed to the idea that you don't stop for strangers, especially late at night, so she continued down the road. But the urge to go back stayed with, becoming, she said, like a physical ache in her chest. And so she did.

"I probably shouldn't be offering you a ride, and you probably shouldn't be accepting one, but do you need a ride?"

The girl was clearly in some sort of distress. She gratefully accepted the woman's offer of a ride, asking to be taken somewhere she could make a phone call. The woman took her to a store that was open all night, asking the security guard there to keep an eye on her.

The woman writes that when she looked into the girl's eyes she had this distinct inner impression that she'd never experienced before that she was at that moment the answer to somebody's prayers for this young girl.

It led her to reflect on the fact that if she hadn't managed to get herself locked out of her house, she wouldn't have been out on that lonely road late at night to be there for that girl. It wasn't that God had intentionally locked her out of her house, but rather that God used her little misstep to bring about something good – that God is always looking to do this sort of thing, and that if you trust this, you don't have to get all stressed over the missteps we all invariably make in life. You just have to be open to the leadings of the Spirit.

*The harvest is plentiful*, said Jesus; there are endless array of wondrous moments to experience grace and love, opportunities, if we are just willing to be a laborer, where God can make something good happen. But too often we miss this abundant harvest, perhaps because of our preoccupation with safety.

'See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals...' (Luke 10:3b – 4)

It is important to travel light as we go through life. Most of us have way too much stuff, and it just bogs us down. It is not true that the one with the most stuff at the end wins. Simplify.

But that's not what I want to focus on in these verses. These two lines don't seem to fit together in our usual way of thinking. On the one hand, Jesus is right up front in acknowledging that there are plenty of **wolves** out there waiting to eat us up. There really are dangers in the world into which he sends us. There is good reason to think twice about stopping to pick up strangers late at night.

And yet in the very next line, Jesus goes on to tell us not to take along with the sort of stuff by which we might seek to take away the risk involved.

**Which is to say, there is something about taking risks in the face of danger that is really important.**

Going camping this past week with my family got me thinking about two words that are linked together: **Safety** and **risk**. The camping we did was pretty tame; nonetheless, there were mild risks involved in comparison to the option of staying at home behind locked doors at night. Who knows for sure what looms out there in the darkness of the woods? And yet embracing that bit of risk is a significant part of what it is that makes the experience of camping worth doing. Embracing the risk brings an intensity, a certain aliveness that we could not find inside our safe houses.

There is a legitimate need to feel safe in this world. A central part of what it means to be a parent is to create a home where a child can feel safe from the threats of this world. *And yet, if all the child ever feels is safe, the child will never grow. We need both safety and risk in our lives.*

We have a tendency in our culture, however to be obsessed with safety, as though the purpose of life is to do away with all possible risks. But **to be absolutely safe is to be dead**. Or to put it another way, the safest possible place in this world is the grave. So "the way" to which Jesus calls us is one in which we willingly embrace risk.

If we are preoccupied with safety we will close ourselves off from experiencing the living God. **God is calling us on an adventure**, and without risk, there is no adventure.

*Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. (Luke 10:5)*

Whenever we encounter someone and dare to reach out to them in peace, **there is a risk involved**. There is **no guarantee** your offer of friendship will be received. Maybe it will, maybe it won't. There are good-hearted people in this world, and there are people in this world whose hearts are closed down. *(There are good-hearted people whose hearts at any given moment have temporarily closed down for a whole host of reasons.)* **Where are good hearted people found?** Everywhere, in all races, cultures, religions, genders, sexual orientations, whatever. **Where are people with closed hearts found?** Everywhere, in all races, cultures, religions, genders, sexual orientations, whatever.

Where does prejudice come from? It arises having an encounter with a person of a particular demographic and having that encounter go badly for whatever reason, and then proceeding to generalize about all people of that demographic. Resorting to prejudice is connected to our preoccupation with safety. It allows us to close down the world, making it smaller and smaller, thereby reducing the risk of rejection.

If your offer of peace is rejected, Jesus tells us not to get strung out about it; don't generalize about all people (or types of people), simply move on to the next person. Your peace is not lost; it comes back to you. But what a difference it would make if we could approach every person we met with an intention of blessing them with our peace?

*'Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.'* (Luke 10:6)

There are two things that catch my attention here. First, live graciously. We are to receive what others give us with **gratitude and humility**. We are not supposed to get bent out of shape with the idea that we're indebted to them for their help. If we come to another person offering peace we have given them something wonderful, even if they end up doing what seems like the heavy lifting in the interaction. **We don't have to grovel in feelings of indebtedness**. Human beings were put on this earth to help one another. If someone else helps us, we have given them an opportunity to fulfill their purpose in life.

Second, Jesus counsels us not to get succored into the perpetual search for **greener pastures**. We are to strive for contentment with what we have, or we will never really live our lives in the present moment. Our lives are doomed if we succumb to the trap of thinking real living will only happen after we make an upgrade.

*Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near." (Luke 10:7 – 11)*

The only message Jesus instructs his followers to deliver is pretty simple: *"The kingdom of God has come near you."* That which we most need, most desire is not far off at the end of a rainbow; it isn't waiting for us at the end of retirement or at the end of a mortgage or at the end of whatever. It isn't waiting for us when we meet the perfect lover or find the perfect job. It is right here now, whether or not we acknowledge it.

So the seventy followers went off on their own to have adventures. After a time they return to Jesus, bubbling over with what they have experienced:

*The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. (Luke 10:17-19)*

The followers are absolutely stunned by all the good stuff that happened when they went into the world with the intention of putting into practice what Jesus had instructed. They've embraced risk, let go and trusted God's presence right here, right now in their lives. They've met all kinds of people and offered them peace, and more often than not the peace has been welcomed. Jesus confirms that this is so.

When we enter into this way of life, there is a certain sense in which the power of evil is broken in our lives — we can't be harmed. That doesn't mean nothing bad will ever happen to us. It means

you enter into this place where evil can't take us over. Our souls remain intact, come what may. Finally, there is this line:

*'Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'* (Luke 10:20)

When we get in tune with God; when we begin to learn what it means to go with the flow, travel lightly, keeping our hearts open, expectedly looking for what God is doing in our lives, then lo and behold we discover a degree of success in this world we had not known was possible. We find doors opening, help offered, opportunities arising. A danger arises, however when we begin to focus our hearts on the success itself. On the television you can often find something called "the prosperity Gospel" put forth by preachers. It contains a partial truth. There is a lot of stuff in life that will go better when we are in tune with God. But there are times in life when God calls us in a way that will feel like any thing but prosperous.

To recognize this truth we need look no farther than the cross. A great deal of the ministry of Jesus was characterized by prosperity and a joyful serendipity. But the larger story contains what looked in the eyes of the world very much like defeat. It was only in the mystery of the resurrection that the horrific defeat of the cross was transformed into something immensely wonderful.

Jesus tells us to focus our hearts not on success but rather on what he calls "having our names written in heaven," which I take to mean living with a sense of integrity that our lives are consistent; that our beliefs and our actions reflect the Gospel. It means going through life without letting the world close down our hearts.

Along with my son Bobby I spend a great deal of time within the world of sports; specifically sharing in my son's passion for soccer. Of course, we've been watching the world cup. We rooted for the US National Team, but after they lost to Ghana, we began rooting for Ghana, the only African nation to advance. This past week we watched as Ghana played valiantly against Uruguay, taking a tie into the final minute of overtime. In the final seconds, a Ghana player took a shot that was headed into the goal, stopped only when a Uruguay player intentionally stopped the ball with his hands, forcing a penalty kick. The star of the Ghana team lined up to take the kick. All he needed to do was sink the shot and his team would advance to the semi-finals, to the great delight of the entire continent of Africa. After 120 minutes of non-stop running, however, his legs were exhausted. He hit the cross bar, missing the kick, sending the game into a penalty kick shoot-out. Uruguay won the shootout.

It was agonizing to watch; how much more so for the players on the team from Ghana. To play so valiantly, only to fall in defeat — the disappointment was oceanic.

Watching this with Bobby, it raised the question of how does an athlete give his or her all while accepting the possibility that in the world of sports, more often than not one's best will not be enough. Sports can be heartbreaking. How to you go forth to compete accepting the risk involved that heartbreak is quite possible?

This is, perhaps, the greatest lesson that sports have to offer, and one that in turn applies to ever other arena in life. How do you love at all knowing that your love may well break your heart? The answer is reflected in the words of Jesus that we are to care more about having our names written in heaven than we are about being a success. Success and failure is so fleeting in this world. Integrity of heart is what matters in the end.

In the kindness and courage of Jesus,  
Pastor Jeff

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Check out our website, and Pastor Jeff's posted sermons and other reflections, at [www.parsippanyumc.com](http://www.parsippanyumc.com). You'll also find the church on Facebook. Pastor Jeff invites us to submit questions and topic suggestions for him to write reflections on, as well as to preach about. You can place suggestions in the offering plate, or give them to Pastor Jeff directly. [JEdwards14@juno.com](mailto:JEdwards14@juno.com)

A **new children's/Youth bell choir** will be starting at our Church this fall. All children and youth in 3rd grade and up (including junior and senior high school) are welcome. No experience necessary. Don't worry if you can't read music. We'll teach you everything you need to know. There will be a brief organizational meeting to determine rehearsal times on Sunday, September 12th after church. For more information please contact Aimee Letsch at 973-585-7634.

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**SPARE CHANGE CAMPAIGN** – We hope you have all collected your spare change over the summer for the church. If you've done your collecting, you can bring in your baggies of change at any time. We thank you for your efforts in this fund-raising campaign.

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United Methodist  
Women

Looking back...Denise White and Karen Wilk hosted Summer Ladies' Nights Out at IHOP and Annabella's, where all shared great fellowship.  
Now, it's time to get back to regular programming, starting with.....

**Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> – 7:30 p.m.**  
PROGRAM: Her Travels to Israel, Egypt and Other  
Points of Interest  
By our own Betty Polen  
Refreshments and Fellowship  
ALL Women welcome – Bring a Friend

Sept. 6 – Labor Day  
Sept. 11 – Patriot Day

Sept. 12 – Grandparent's Day  
Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> – First Day of Autumn  
Sept. 29 – Homemade Cakes to Morris View N.H.

Get well wishes to those of you who are ill, and  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those of you celebrating this month with Connie Keller and Pat Winz.  
God Bless,  
Doris Bradley

**Prov. 17:17 “A friend loves at all times.”**

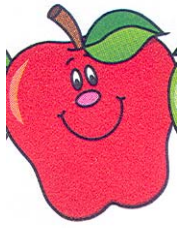
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If you have not been around to keep your pledge up-to-date over the summer, please do what you can to bring it current. The finance committee appreciates your efforts.

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Pastor Jeff is writing an original **Christmas play** to be produced at our church in December under lights – the whole deal. He invites anyone from our church family of any age who would like to have a part to speak to him now so he can write you into the script.



Our **Happy Apple Bazaar** is coming up next month on **October 23<sup>rd</sup>**. If you would like to get involved that day, please see Barb Bradley or Connie Keller to get your “bizarre” assignment!

Things you can do this month to help out – bring in your gently used jewelry to Karen Wilk or Diane Anastasi, along with any jewelry gift boxes. If you happen to have any old, gold jewelry that you no longer are using and would like to donate it, they will take care of getting it turned in to a jeweler where the church will get the best price for the jewelry.

Be thinking of what kind of silent auction basket you would like to make. If you don’t want to make a basket, but would like to donate something toward one, please bring your items to Barb Bradley. Or, you may donate money toward the making of a basket as well.

You can also be bringing in your items for the garage sale rooms, along with books and toys to be sold.

If you have any ideas you’d like to offer, please let Barb or Connie know.

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***HERE & NOW: Living Out Our Faith Day by Day- A 6 Week Small Group Experience -***

Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something right here, right now, and anyone can be a part of it. He encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implications of what he was saying and doing. Wherever he went, whatever he did, Jesus started discussions about what it means to live a life of faith—inviting people to open up their minds and join the conversation.

Two thousand years later the conversation continues—and YOU are invited to take part. Beginning on **September 21<sup>st</sup>**, David Turner will lead 6 group meetings in the chapel on **Tuesday evenings** from **7:00 to 8:30**.

Using short readings and film clips in a series of small group gatherings, we will have the opportunity to consider, explore, and share our thoughts about what it means to live out our faith, here and now, day by day. The group size will be limited to 15 members. If you have questions or would like to sign up, please speak to David at church. Or contact him by phone (917-400-9588) or e-mail at [psalter103@aol.com](mailto:psalter103@aol.com).

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**Sunday Morning alert:** We've all become dependent on all of our electronic devices. Please take note of the announcement in the Sunday bulletin about your cell phones. Please remember, as a courtesy to those worshipping with us on Sunday mornings, to mute or turn off your cell phones. A random ring tone is not nearly as cute as a baby's cry. Thanks for your help!

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**Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Parsippany United Methodist Church is invited to speak to Pastor Jeff.** Several persons have expressed an interest in becoming members of our congregation; Pastor Jeff is trying to find a Sunday to make this possible.

Keeping with the theme of risk taking...

During the children's sermon in worship on August 1<sup>st</sup>, I had the kids give out five dollar bills to all the adults present. I invited folks to listen to God's voice to direct them in finding someone to whom they could give the money. Here's a story one woman from our congregation shared with me in response to this gift. She said that when she first received the \$5, she immediately found herself thinking of a particular homeless man she had seen in Parsippany over the years. In the winter her heart would go out to him when she would see him trudging through the snow without a warm coat.

At the end of our worship service, the invitation was made to make donations into a basket to help fund the dinner our church puts on for the homeless. Along with several others in our congregation, she recognized this as a worthy place to contribute, so she placed the \$5 in the basket on her way out of worship.

When she left church she went directly to Pathmark to shop for groceries. As she parked her car, she was stunned to see the very man she had first pictured in worship. Awestruck by the God moment she realized she had been given, she was determined to overcome her shyness in approaching this forlorn stranger. Feeling not a little bit nerve-rattled, she pulled another five dollar bill from her pocket book and approached the man at the shopping carts. "Excuse me," she said, quickly explaining how her pastor had given the money out that morning in worship with instructions to give it away to someone, and that she wanted to give it to him.

Every time she had seen the man before he had been bent over, and she had never really gotten a good look at his face. Now, he raised his head and locked eyes with her. She was stuck by his remarkably tender blue eyes.

"God bless you!" he said warmly.

Without a doubt, she realized, she had just encountered Jesus in one of his many disguises.

Do you have a story to share?

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**Consider becoming a part of one or more of our Musical Groups here at church:**

**Bell Choir** – rehearses Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. The Bell Choir has been shrinking over the last few years and we sure would like more people to join us! Speak to Tom Smith or Barb Bradley - or just show up on Thursday and see what happens!

**Choir** – rehearses Thursdays at 7:45 p.m. We always have an "open robe" for anyone who loves to sing. We sing in 4-part harmony, so if you've sung in your high school chorus or any other equivalent, you have a great start! Speak to any choir member or Barb Bradley if you're interested.

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On the second Thursday of every other month our congregation provides dinner for the families at **Homeless Solutions**. Our next scheduled dinner is Thursday, October 14th. If you would like to take a turn in helping with this outreach, or if you would like to donate money towards the expenses, please speak to Laurie Wilken or Connie Wallace.



Looking ahead: our annual Church Conference with our district superintendent Rev. Renee McCleary will be held on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Rev. McCleary will meet with the Staff Parish Relations Committee at 6:30 p.m.

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Our church website has been revised and updated. If you haven't seen it lately, check it out at Parsippanyumc.com. At the website you will find a link to all of Pastor Jeff's sermons, as well as his occasional bloggings.

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**Healing Prayer sessions** are held every Wednesday morning from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the prayer chapel. All are invited to come and be a part of this time of prayer -- for yourself or for others.

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A **small gathering of men** from our church meet together every Tuesday at 7:15 a.m. at the Empire Diner with Pastor Jeff for breakfast, conversation, and a concluding prayer. All men are welcome.

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The **UMW** is selling **Food Certificates to benefit the General Budget** for ShopRite and PathMark as an ongoing Fund Raiser. The church will receive 5% of all purchases (you buy \$100 of certificates, the church gets \$5). Certificates are available in \$5, \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations. Please see Betty Polen at the beginning of Coffee Hour if you would like to purchase Food Certificates. Checks should be made payable to The United Methodist Women.

Thank you, The UMW

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Anyone aware of a **Prayer Concern** is invited to contact Grace Agre at 539-3855 who will put the **Prayer Chain** into action. If Grace cannot be reached, please contact Pastor Jeff. If you would like to add your name to the people who receive the prayer chain, please speak to Betty Polen

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**Parsippany Food Pantry - Wes Sitgreaves** has called to our attention the ongoing need of the Emergency Food Pantry in Parsippany in these difficult economic times. There are more and more families turning to the food pantry for help. You can bring your donations of non-perishable food items to the church any Sunday. Wes Stigreaves takes the food over as the bin gets filled up. Supermarket gift cards are also welcome - buy them from Betty Polen and raise money for the church at the same time!!! This is a very easy way to give back to the less-fortunate in our own township.



We rejoiced in worship with the return of Bart Routhier after having spent four and a half years serving in the Navy in several locations, including Afghanistan. I got to spend some time recently with Bart talking about his experience. The impression Bart gave me was that the two best things he experienced in the Navy was this:

- 1) The profound sense of a family he developed with the fellow soldiers with whom he served; that they were like brothers and sisters for whom he would be willing to sacrifice for, even die for.
- 2) The opportunities he had to do some good in this world, which happened primarily when he was deployed in Ghana and Liberia, building medical clinics that truly benefited the people living there.

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Pastor Jeff appeared on the cable network program "Mountain View" two times this summer as a guest preacher. Mountain View is seen throughout the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area.



**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER**

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| <u>Sept. 5<sup>th</sup></u><br>Jeremiah 139:1-6, 13-18<br>Philemon 1-21<br>Luke 14:25-53 | <u>Sept. 12<sup>th</sup></u><br>Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28<br>1 Timothy 1:12-17<br>Luke 15:1-10 | <u>Sept. 19<sup>th</sup></u><br>Jeremiah 8:18—9:1<br>1 Timothy 2:1-7<br>Luke 16:1-13 | <u>Sept. 26<sup>th</sup></u><br>Jeremiah 32:1-3a,6-15<br>1 Timothy 6:6-19<br>Luke 16:19-31 |
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**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

|                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Anna Larsen         | 16 <sup>th</sup> Ray Steen       |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Emma Crowningshield | 17 <sup>th</sup> Sandy Bostwick  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Anita Laux          | 19 <sup>th</sup> Pat Winz        |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Connie Keller       | 27 <sup>th</sup> Keith Anastasi  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Michael Krisa       | 28 <sup>th</sup> Ben Chauhan     |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Greg Elbin          | 28 <sup>th</sup> Glen Post       |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Jim Steen, Jr.     | 29 <sup>th</sup> Vincent Bianchi |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Karina Barreto     | 30 <sup>th</sup> Sarah Wink      |

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

|                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Ann & George Hawkins |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Ann & Charles Nye   |

## **GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE - June 3-5, 2010**

I represented you at the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference for three days in early June. About 1400 people, half clergy and half laity, gathered in Valley Forge Pennsylvania. In those fifty-five hours, I attended all of the Worship Services, Bible Studies, the plenary sessions with all their many resolutions, reports, recognitions, nominations and appointments. The theme of the conference was: *Disciples Transforming the World Through our Presence*. Bishop Devadhar stated that there are seven manifestations of our presence: the poor, slavery, prisons, liquor, politics, war and education. He gave an encouraging report that our membership has increased 7% and both United Methodist Women and Men have shown an increase in membership. On October 9, 2010, we will celebrate the Full Communion Agreement between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church.

The youth at last year's conference suggested to Bishop Devadhar that he invite the Rev. Stephanie Hand to be this year's conference Preacher/Teacher. She was described as being "in your face." Her style was different from others in that she tended to shout and ended each service with an altar call. One of her messages centered around "Doubting Thomas" and the fact that although Thomas was absent, we serve a God of second chances. She also stated, "God has called everyone to get up and go into the world. "We need each other." "We are all a part of God's family."

Each year we vote on many resolutions. Some are difficult to understand. But this time we voted on something that needed to be done! Many of you know the Rev. Pat Brurger. She spoke at our UMW about her extension ministry at CUMAC/ECHO in Paterson. Apparently, her 20 years of extension ministry there did not, until now, receive pension credit. We voted to correct this.

The conference approved the Sessions Committee recommendation to hold the Greater NJ Annual Conference at the Valley Forge Convention Center for the next three years. The committee had looked into comparative pricing for holding conference at Atlantic City and Somerset, NJ. The established dates are: June 1-4, 2011, May 31-June 2, 2012 and May 30-June 1, 2013.

Information on Annual Conference will be found in the next *Relay*. A Journal including details of the Annual Conference will be available in the Fall. Jeff and I will have DVD's and I have ordered a printed copy.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Polen

Lay Member

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Doctors at the River Drive Surgery and Laser Center of Elmwood Park, New Jersey, will again offer **FREE cataract surgery** this year for those without health insurance during Vision Harvest 2010. During last year's event, the vision of 20 patients was dramatically improved thanks to the program. On October 22, 2010, Cary M. Silverman, M.D. and select physicians at the center will be performing cataract surgery procedures for those that are uninsured and can't afford to pay.

According to the 2009 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, about one in six American adults are without health insurance. "While a large majority of Americans have health insurance coverage, roughly 16% are still uninsured. My colleagues and I all agree no one should go without needed cataract surgery due to finances," said East Hanover ophthalmologist, Cary M. Silverman, M.D. who organized the event. "We want to make sure that any vision impaired person in New Jersey without insurance or financial resources learns about this remarkable program."

Over the next few weeks, participating eye physicians will be evaluating prospective cataract patients and scheduling them for their free procedure. Eligible patients will have all eye examinations, testing, medications, and surgery provided to them free of charge.

If you know someone who is visually impaired with cataracts and has no insurance or if you would like more information about Vision Harvest 2010, please call 973-200-8250 to set up a free evaluation.

# September 2010

## United Methodist Church of Parsippany

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday                            | Thursday   | Friday    | Saturday  |          |    |          |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |          |          |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|----------|----|----------|----|----|----|----|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|----------|----------|----------|
| <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Aug 2010</th> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Oct 2010</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">S</th><th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">M</th><th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">T</th><th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">W</th><th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">T</th><th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">F</th><th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">S</th> <th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">S</th><th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">M</th><th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">T</th><th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">W</th><th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">T</th><th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">F</th><th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table> |  | Aug 2010   |                                      |  |           |           |          |    | Oct 2010 |    |    |    |    |  |  | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |  |  |  | 31 |  |  |  |  |  |  | <b>1</b><br>10:30 AM Healing Prayer<br>7:30 PM UMW |  | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> |
| Aug 2010  |  |  |                                      |  |           |           | Oct 2010 |    |          |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |          |          |
| S   | M  | T  | W                                    | T  | F         | S         | S        | M  | T        | W  | T  | F  | S  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |          |          |
| 1   | 2  | 3  | 4                                    | 5  | 6         | 7         | 3        | 4  | 5        | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |          |          |
| 8   | 9  | 10   | 11                                   | 12   | 13        | 14        | 10       | 11 | 12       | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |          |          |
| 15  | 16   | 17   | 18                                   | 19   | 20        | 21        | 17       | 18 | 19       | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |          |          |
| 22  | 23   | 24   | 25                                   | 26   | 27        | 28        | 24       | 25 | 26       | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |          |          |
| 29  | 30   | 31   |                                      |  |           |           | 31       |    |          |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |          |          |
| <b>5</b><br>10:00 AM Worship  | <b>6</b><br><br>LABOR Day | <b>7</b><br>7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast                                   | <b>8</b><br>10:30 AM Healing Prayer  | <b>9</b><br>7:00 PM Bell Choir<br>7:45 PM Adult Choir  | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b> |          |    |          |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |          |          |
| <b>12</b><br>10:30 AM Worship   | <b>13</b>  | <b>14</b><br>7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast                                  | <b>15</b><br>10:30 AM Healing Prayer | <b>16</b><br>7:00 PM Bell Choir<br>7:45 PM Adult Choir | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b> |          |    |          |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |          |          |
| <b>19</b><br>10:30 AM Worship   | <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b><br>7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast<br><br>7:00 PM Adult Small Group | <b>22</b><br>10:30 AM Healing Prayer | <b>23</b><br>7:00 PM Bell Choir<br>7:45 PM Adult Choir | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b> |          |    |          |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |          |          |
| <b>26</b><br>10:30 AM Worship   | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b><br>7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast<br><br>7:00 PM Adult Small Group | <b>29</b><br>10:30 AM Healing Prayer | <b>30</b><br>7:00 PM Bell Choir<br>7:45 PM Adult Choir |           |           |          |    |          |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |          |          |