

# HILLTOPPER

United Methodist Church of Parsippany

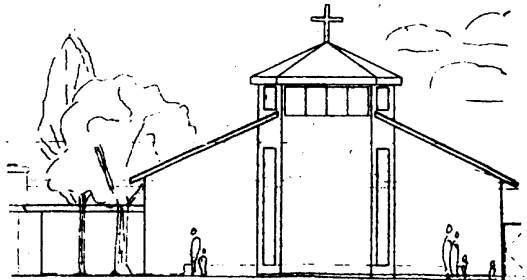
903 So. Beverwyck Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054 (973) 887-4657

<http://www.parsippanyumc.com> E-Mail: [jedwards14@juno.com](mailto: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"*



**FEBRUARY 2012**

## Pastor Jeff's Christmas Eve Sermon/Slide Show



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." And so we light candles to remind ourselves of the power of that light to cast out the darkness. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." The **divine Word**, that had been there at the very beginning of creation, and through which all things were made, and through which **you** were made, and **I** was made. "**The word became flesh...**" the same flesh in which we dwell – everyone of us. Beginning life as a vulnerable little baby, so fragile, so dependent upon the care of those who come before us in the flesh, the love passed on through the generations. What is it about a little child that is so enchanting for those of us who have grown old? That awakens the slumbering God-ache in our souls? That reminds who we are beyond all the*



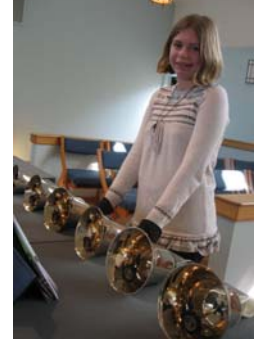
roles we fill and titles we hold? And what did Jesus mean when he said that unless we turn and become like little children, we will never enter the kingdom of God? That God should come among us as a little child, without pretense, beyond all barriers? And what does it mean to truly grasp the meaning of Christmas? How do we give gifts to the baby Jesus? What does it mean to live out



of the good news of great *joy* that comes to *ALL* people?

That joy of which the angels sang, that sounds forth in every ringing bell, every resonate harmony, and also in every really good laugh. To experience this joy requires that our eyes be opened, that we may truly see, and that our hearts be opened, to behold the light that shines in every face. Yes, *faces*. Faces are important. In every face, there is Jesus in disguise. That's not just a catchy saying. That's truth. "*For the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,*" and it was the Word

through which each of us was made in the image and likeness of God. And if we truly "get" the miracle of Christmas, our eyes will be open to see Jesus in all flesh: in mothers and sons, and fathers and daughters; in children, teenagers and adults, and those who have lived many years upon this earth. In the faces we know well, and the faces we have just met. In every family, and in every solitary *soul* God allows us to meet.



**There's always room in the circle.**



It's not good for the man to be alone, said God, nor for that matter, for the woman, nor the widow, nor the child,



nor the teenager. We need one another, and God has given us light to share to ease the burden of the night. God gives us the gift of others, that we might keep one another company, And like shepherds of old, we may keep watch for those surprising



angels and their insistent messages that we truly don't need to be afraid, and to "try again" when we get discouraged – to remind one another that there is always cause for hope because our God has not abandoned us to the darkness, but has come to share the very flesh in which we experience life, to share our adventures, our laughter and our tears.



Jesus said, *where two or more are gathered in my name, there I am also. And so he is...* Deep inside of all of us there is a desire to give. Like the wisemen who travelled from the



east with gifts to give, we, too long to give love away the way Jesus did. To have our lives declare emphatically that there really IS GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY to share... that we are in this great adventure called life TOGETHER; that through the Word that became flesh we truly are sisters & brothers through HIM who loved *everyone* of us... that there *is* room in HIS circle for all people, not just some people. And when we embrace one another we embrace Jesus, we hug Jesus, himself. We cradle the light of the world, and the darkness is once more overcome.



In the kindness of Jesus, **Pastor Jeff**



Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday** on **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Join us at 7 p.m. as we begin this season of reflection and repentance together in worship.

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Pastor Jeff leads worship at **Troy Hills Nursing Center** on Reynolds Road on the third Thursday of every month at 10:30 a.m. Anyone who would like to share in this ministry on is invited to join him.

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United Methodist  
Women

Looking back...we didn't have snow, but we wanted everyone to be safe at home – just in case.  
Keep watching for meeting news....

**No Febuary Meeting**  
**Due to uncertain weather**

Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day  
Feb. 14 – Valentine's Day  
Feb. 20 – President's Day

Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday  
Feb. 29 – Homemade Cakes for Morris View

Get well wishes to those of you who are ill, and  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those of you celebrating this month with Grace Agre and Denise White.

God Bless,  
Doris Bradley

**Prov. 17:17 "A friend loves at all times."**

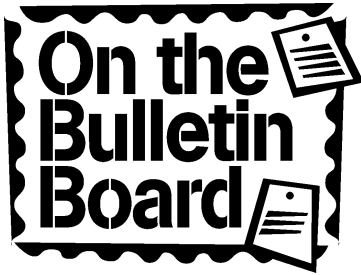
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Our church will once again host a **Blood Drive** on **Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** The bloodmobile will be in our parking lot, and you are invited to show up. There is a tremendous need for blood donations at this time.

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Pastor Jeff will appear on the Cable Television Program Mountain Views on WMBC (Verizon Channel 18; Cablevision Channel 20) on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. He gives a sermon and then is interviewed by the host on a program that is seen throughout Northern New Jersey and New York City.



It's amazing how many little things we do or experience every day that contribute to our overall happiness and amusement. It's the little simple things that make us smile, feel warm inside, or sometimes laugh out loud.

When was the last time you felt happy because you were the last one in the checkout line before the "closed" sign went up?

Or making a snow angel?

We are going to draw attention to these AWESOME moments by converting the bulletin board in the narthex into the **BOARD OF AWESOME**.

We want everyone to post their awesome moments on the board. You will find everything you need on the bulletin board: marker, awesome moment scrolls, and stick pins.

Add one, two, or as many as you want. Fill the board! Let's make this a real corner of joy in our church. If you have any questions, please speak to Darryl, Connie, or Barb.

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**Something New:** **Our church calendar is now available on the church's website.**

If you are planning an event and need to book the church or a particular room, please check the calendar on the website, then call Gail Booth or Wes Sitgreaves to confirm availability and reserve your time. (Fred Coleman will also have a hard copy of the calendar here at the church that you can also check for date availability.)

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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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**Eleanor Cochrane is turning 95!** There will be a celebration on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Sparta UMC to which everyone is welcome. If you can't make the celebration but would like to send a card, the address is 64 Goldfinch Drive, Hackettstown, NJ 07840.

**A day time men's discussion group** with Pastor Jeff is meeting on **Fridays at 1 p.m.** at the church. We listen to short audio tapes and discuss what we hear during the 90 minute sessions. Any men available in the day time are invited to join us.

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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, February 9th**. 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.

Anyone who is interested in serving from time to time as a *liturgist* in the Sunday worship service is invited to speak to Pastor Jeff.

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**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS** – If you want to remember or honor a special occasion in your life by putting flowers on the altar, please get in touch with Connie Keller. Flower arrangements are currently being purchased at Shop Rite for varying costs depending on what you want. You are certainly welcome at any time to place flowers on the altar. If you want an announcement in the bulletin, please call Connie

Keller or send her an email with the dedication. Contact information: Connie's cell: 973-568-5404: home: 973-887-4384: email: [connie@mhmlender.com](mailto:connie@mhmlender.com)

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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](http://Parsippanyumc.com). At the website you will find a link to all of Pastor Jeff's sermons, as well as his occasionally bloggings.

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The **UMW** is selling **Food Gift Cards to benefit the General Budget** for ShopRite as an *ongoing Fund Raiser*. The church will receive 5% of all purchases (you buy \$100 of gift cards, the church gets \$5). Gift Cards 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 ShopRite Gift Cards. Checks should be made payable to The United Methodist Women.

Thank you, The UMW

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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.



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

**Bell Choir** – rehearses Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, please speak to Barb Bradley or Aimee Letsch - 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.

**Kids Bell Choir** – rehearses every Sunday after worship. All children and youth in 3rd grade and up (including junior and senior high school) are welcome. Directed by Aimee Letsch (973-585-

7634).

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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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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



**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY**

Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Isaiah 40:21-31  
 1 Corinth. 9:16-23  
 Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>  
 2 Kings 5:1-14  
 1 Corinth. 9:24-27  
 Mark 1:40-45

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>  
 2 Kings 2:1-12  
 2 Corinth 4:3-6  
 Mark 9:2-9

Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>  
 Genesis 9:8-17  
 1 Peter 3:18-22  
 Mark 1:9-15

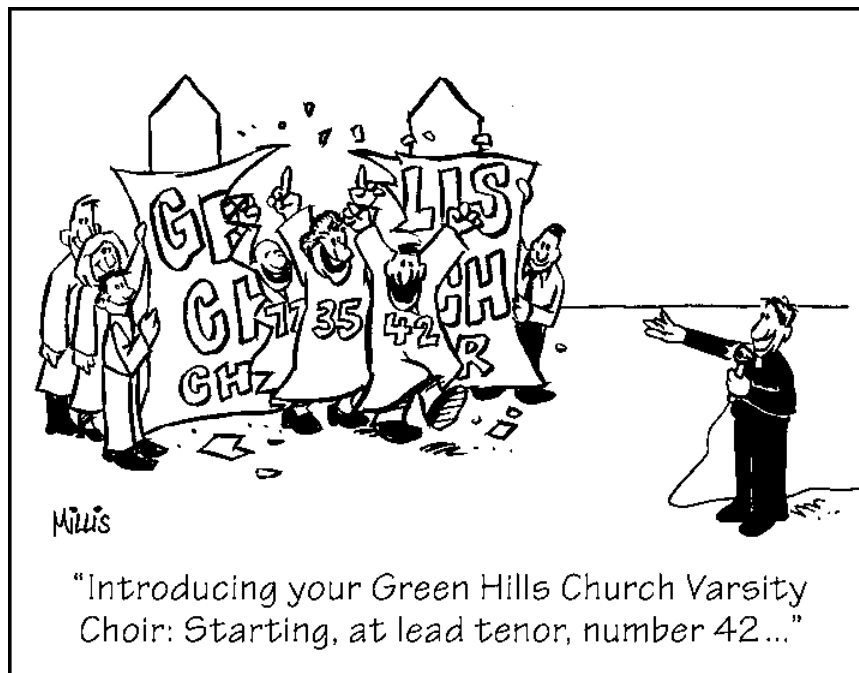
  
**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mia Savarin	11 <sup>th</sup>	Valia Hawkins
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Denise White	11 <sup>th</sup>	Julianne Karr
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Justin Cogan	11 <sup>th</sup>	Ryan Wink
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Diane Morgan	19 <sup>th</sup>	Charlotte Romeo
4 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Valcoff	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Elizabeth Vance
5 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Munnelly	24 <sup>th</sup>	Tracy Krisa Kempiski
7 <sup>th</sup>	Charlotte Vance	25 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah Edwards
8 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Schnetzer	25 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Hawkins, Jr.
10 <sup>th</sup>	Mark Dierbach	28 <sup>th</sup>	Grace Agre
10 <sup>th</sup>	TJ Cogan		

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

16 <sup>th</sup>	Mariahna Suzan & Joshua Vedam
19 <sup>th</sup>	June & Russ Schnetzer

Are you interested in helping others? Can you spare a few hours a week? Do you want to make a difference in someone else's life? If you said yes to any of these questions, become a Hospice volunteer! Volunteers visit and support patients and families, assist with family and bereavement programs, participate in the Children's bereavement camp, and provide office staff. Training is provided. If you are interested in becoming an Atlantic Hospice Volunteer or have any questions, please call 973 379 8444.



# February 2012

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
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