

# HILLTOPPER

United Methodist Church of Parsippany

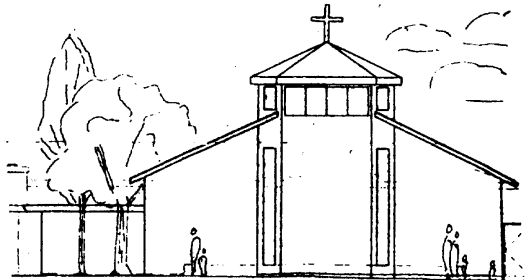
903 So. Beverwyck Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054 (973) 887-4657

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, 2011**

**From the**



**A sermon preached on June 5th, 2011 based upon John 17:1 - 11.**

There in that upper room, the night before he is to die, Jesus prays for his disciples – he prays for you and me. He prays, *“Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”* It is striking that the protection for which Jesus prays for us is for the purpose that we *“might be one”* -- that is, so we might remain connected, unified, rather than split apart.

Apparently our unity and connection to one another is profoundly important. And apparently there is a destructive force at work in the world that would work precisely against such unity and connection.

Vice Admiral James Stockdale was shot down over North Vietnam and for eight years he was the senior naval officer held prisoner by the North Vietnamese. He was tortured fifteen times, held in leg irons for two years, and kept in solitary confinement for four years.

This is the sort of situation that makes most of us shudder and think to ourselves, *“I could never have withstood that.”* Many of the prisoners couldn't stand it, but others did, including the admiral, and he has written about his experience to try to describe how he and others did survive.



The two most difficult things to bear for the prisoners were one, solitary confinement, and two, torture. The captors intentionally sought to isolate the prisoners from one another in order to break their spirit, thereby making them more pliable in terms of achieving the captors' objectives: specifically, to coerce the prisoners into making propaganda statements – public confessions that they had been sent to bomb *“hospitals, schools and pagodas.”*

The prisoners developed an elaborate tapping code to secretly communicate with while they were under solitary confinement, thereby maintaining their connection with one another.

There was grave danger involved in engaging in these secret tapping communications, because sooner or later their tapping would always eventually be detected by the guards, at which point they would be subjected to torture.

And so there was this choice that each prisoner had to make, whether to remain a part of the communications network, tapping out the code, risking the inevitable torture it would bring them, or to give up communicating, losing touch with their fellow prisoners and thereby lessen the likelihood they would suffer torture.





Looking back, it was clear to Admiral Stockdale that those who gave up communicating were those who lost the will to endure.

But there was something that complicated this picture, and it was this: Subjected to torture, every prisoner would eventually crack and give in to the torturers' demands in order to end the pain. There were two objectives to the torture. The first was to get the prisoners to make the propaganda statements. The second, however, was certain ways more insidious, and that was to get them to "rat out" their fellow prisoners -- to provide information about who was communicating to whom within the prison community, and what was being talked about. In giving up this information, the tortured prisoners would be sending fellow prisoners to the torture chambers.

And so you can see it was inevitable that prisoners would end up betraying their brothers in captivity. They would eventually find themselves carrying a boat-load-of-guilt.

So the question became: *how to deal with the sting of guilt?* There were some for whom the burden of guilt would lead them to give up their connection with their brothers in captivity. But most of them recognized a simple truth: the connection was simply too important. Never keep secrets from fellow Americans.

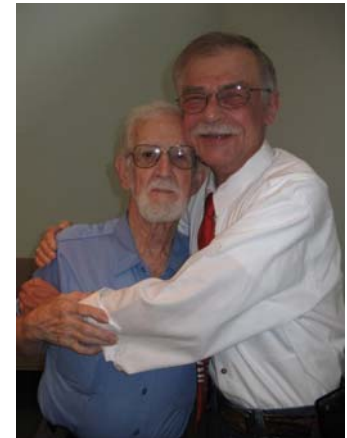
No matter what they said or were forced to say under torture in the privacy of the interrogation room, the prisoners learned that as soon as possible, they had to get back on the tap-code network and confess the details of their betrayals to their brothers.

Admiral Stockdale concludes with these words:

*"Anybody who has been there knows that a neighbor in the cell block becomes the most precious thing on earth, a soul who deserves your care and cooperation no matter what the risk."*

Asked what kept them going, the answer was quite simple. *"The man next door."* Or to put it another way: each man truly was his brother's keeper.

*(Recorded in Fritz Kunkel: Selected Writings, edited by John Sanford)*



There are lessons learned in extreme situations such as that of a North Vietnamese prison camp that reveal truth about us human beings – truths that are applicable to situations that might seem on the surface nothing like a life in a prison camp – such as what it means to keep from losing one's soul in modern American society. We don't have prison guards actively seeking to isolate us from one another, but the forces that push us in that direction are very real nonetheless.

How easily we descend into defining a good neighbor as one who doesn't bother us. In an affluent society, creature comforts can easily take the place of soulful connection with other human beings.

And we like things to come easily, and relationships with other human beings aren't easy, because, even as we are made in the image and likeness of God we are also all sinners, and the self-centeredness of our sin inevitably causes pain to our neighbors, with the inevitable anger and guilt that comes along with these wounds. And it so easy to conclude, *"Hey, I don't need this crap!"*

But in truth, we do. We rally are our brother's keeper. To give up on others is to shrivel up and die. So Jesus prays for us, that we may remain one, even as the Father and Son are one.

And this is what a church is all about.

Betty Polen said something years back that struck me as really profound. She was talking about her sister-in-law who had died. The last years of her life she had kept pretty much to herself. She had enough money that it was relatively easy for her to have relatively few interactions with other people. But along the way her spirit withered away.

The profound thing Betty said was this, *"She could have used being a part of a United Methodist Women."* Which is to say humble little fellowships of United Methodist Women, as well as the church itself, really are life savers.



The unusual thing about Church is that because Jesus is at the center, we have this built in rhythm of confession, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Even though we are made in the image and likeness of God -- which means we are made for relationships we are also sinners who hurt one another -- who push one another away in a whole range of ways. There can be no depth to real community unless this fact is recognized and dealt with.

So we come here each Sunday morning, and one of the first things we do is acknowledge our frailties and our sin, proclaim the forgiveness of God that allow us to turn and greet one another with clean and open hearts. Like those prisoners, confessing to their betrayals to their fellow prisoners.

In a little while we will share again in holy communion. This sacred ritual that we once more enact dates back to that upper room the night before Jesus died.

Over the previous three years a community of brothers and sisters had been built up that was held together by Jesus' physical presence. He was the glue that held them together. And now his physical presence is about to be taken from them.

How will they maintain the connection?

So Jesus gives them this very down to earth ritual, involving these things we do every day: eating and drinking. Do this together in my name, he said.

We recognize ourselves as Simon Peter who carried his boat-load of guilt for betraying his brother Jesus when the pressure just got too intense.

And Jesus is here once more, forgiving us, reminding us in turn to forgive one another, and feed one another.

The sacrament of holy communion can't be done alone. It requires a community of people. We get this.

The same is true, however of baptism. People have babies and then for a whole host of reasons it occurs to them that they should get the baby baptized. They haven't been a part of a church and they call me up asking if I will "do" their baby.

Then I try to explain to them how we Methodists get this about baptism. You can't do it alone. It requires a community. It requires network of relationships that will be there for one another through thick and thin.

Otherwise its just a bunch of hocus pocus.

I want to finish with the following dream recorded by a woman named Margaret Evening In her book "Who Walk Alone", *"It was one of the few coherent dreams that I have ever had, but it was so vivid that even now I can remember the details of it clearly."*

*"In the dream, I visited Hell, where the sub-Warden showed me round. To my surprise, I was led along a labyrinth of dark, dank passages from which there were numerous doors leading into cells. It was not like Hell as I had pictured it at all. In fact, it was all rather religious and "churchy"! Each cell was identical. The central piece of furniture was an altar, and each altar knelt (or in some cases, were prostrated) greeny-grey spectral figures in attitudes of prayer and adoration. 'But whom are they worshipping?' I asked my guide. 'Themselves,' came the reply immediately. 'This is 'pure' self-worship. They are feeding on themselves and their own spiritual vitality in a kind of auto-spiritual-cannibalism. That is why they are so sickly looking and emaciated.'*

*"I was appalled and saddened by the row upon row of cells with their non-communicating inmates, spending eternity in solitary confinement, themselves the first, last and only object of worship."*

*"According to the teaching of the New Testament, Heaven is community. My dream reminded me that Hell is isolation."*

In the kindness of Jesus  
Pastor Jeff



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The **Happy Apple Bazaar is schedule for Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Please start preparing by gathering items to make baskets for silent auction, bring in you good, gently-used jewelry to be sold, and think of any new ideas we might use to help bring in money at the bazaar -- as well as putting time aside to help out! See Barb Bradley or Connie Keller for more info.





During the week of August 15 – 19, we held our first Vacation Bible Camp for the first time in decades. Eighteen children and youth and six adults came together to share a lot of fun as we celebrated five heroes of faith: Joseph, David, Peter, Mary Magelene and Paul. We visited the residents at the Troy Hills Nursing Center and anointed them with fragrant perfumes like Mary did to Jesus. A special thanks goes to Mariahna Suzan for being the spark plug of this undertaking. A great time was had by all!



Another highlight of the Summer Were David Turner's seven **Movie Nights** he held in homes once a week. Great discussions were held in response to David's quirky, provocative and moving movies.

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**Is Your Pledge Up to Date?**

Here's hoping that your "summer break" has been refreshing and restorative to body, mind and spirit. It's good to occasionally just get away from it all; to forget, even if just for a few days, the cares and worries of everyday life.

The long, hot days of summer are ever so slowly slipping away and we hope that those of you that have been away will rejoin us as we celebrate the wonderful lives that we have as a part of the body of Christ. While our cares took a shift during summer, your church stood fast in its mission to serve. Most recently, the church held its first Vacation Bible School in recent memory! A new child day center should soon be moving in to the space formerly occupied by Little Blessings and Wes's garage sales have concluded. One thing that didn't change, that remains the same throughout the year, is our need for our members and friends to continue making their pledges of support to the church. We know that a part of the "getting away" for the summer mindset that we slip into allows to forget this commitment. However, the needs of our church continue whether you are physically with us or not. If you haven't already done so, can you take a moment to look over your personal books to see if you've kept up with your pledge over the summer? If your pledge was one of those things that you allowed to slip, can you make an effort to catch up?



**SPARE CHANGE CAMPAIGN** – Our spare change campaign is over for this year. We will be collecting your bags of change that you saved over the summer during September. Please remember to bring in your bags!

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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.



United Methodist  
Women

Looking back...we had a great time, good food and much fellowship at our two summer Ladies' Nights Out.

And now it's time to get back to business and our programs --- So, bring a friend and please join us on....

**Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.**  
**PROGRAM: Maide Erikson**  
(award winning engineer, of our church family)  
REFRESHMENTS will be served

Sept. 5 – Labor Day  
Sept. 11 – Patriot Day

Sept. 11 – Grandparent's Day  
Sept. 23 – First Day of Autumn

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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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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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 13th**. 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.

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**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, September 24, 2011 - Church Family Pot Luck Dinner and Sing-A-Long to *The Beatles* music**

Plans are underway for a get together of all fans of Beatle music. We're going to have a Pot Luck Dinner and lots of Beatle music to sing-a-long to!!! Bring a dish to feed 8 or more. Sound like fun? Want to get involved and help out? Please call Connie Keller 973-568-5404 or 973-887-4384 or email me [connie@mhmlender.com](mailto:connie@mhmlender.com)

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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.



**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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**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 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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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



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.

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER**

<u>Sept. 4<sup>th</sup></u> Exodus 12:1-14 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20	<u>Sept. 11<sup>th</sup></u> Exodus 14:19-31 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	<u>Sept. 18<sup>th</sup></u> Exodus 16:2-15 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16	<u>Sept. 25<sup>th</sup></u> Exodus 17:1-7 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32
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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	29 <sup>th</sup> Mariahna Suzan
	30 <sup>th</sup> Sarah Wink

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

8 <sup>th</sup>	Ann & George Hawkins
15 <sup>th</sup>	Ann & Charles Nye
28 <sup>th</sup>	Susan & Nick Valcoff

We have been wonderfully blessed to have **Kelly Tooley** in our midst over the past few months. Mother's Day was Kelly's last Sunday with us, and with the help of our children Pastor Jeff presented her with one of our prayer blankets and prayed over Kelly and her mom. For the next two years Kelly will be serving through the Peace Corp in Swaziland as an HIV/AIDS educator. While Kelly is in Swaziland you can follow her blog at <http://ktooley.blogspot.com/>

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We've begun a new tradition. Each Sunday right before the offering, a different member of the church takes a turn to speak for a minute on the theme of "I am grateful to God for our church because..." Below are our recent **moments of gratitude**:

### **Barbara Bradley**



This church has meant a lot to me over the 46 years I've been attending here. I came with my mom and dad when I was 6. My first Sunday School teacher was Dave Kinsley's mom, Eleanor. I later had his dad, Uncle Charlie, as my teacher for my junior high class. I began singing in the junior choir in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and joined the adult choir in high school. I used to sub for our director at the time when she was on vacation and she let me play and lead anthems sometimes.

After I graduated college, our music director decided to leave us and asked me if I would like to have the job. Our pastor at the time, Glenn Pursel, encouraged me to take on the position, and here I am, 30 years later!

Since I've been around so long, I've seen many pastors and people come and go, but no matter what, this place has always felt like home to me.

There were two occasions over my years here that really underscored that for me. Back in 1978, my dad passed away from a heart attack while driving around Lake Parsippany on Columbus Day weekend. My mom and I were up at my grandmother's house in Newton at the time, and when I looked out the window, I saw Lois and Jack Kelshaw in the driveway. They had driven up to give us the news as they didn't want a police officer to tell us. What better friends could you have. That was on Saturday. The next day, I just knew I had to come to church and sing in the choir as my mom and dad and I always did every week. I felt such a sense of peace doing that – it's hard to explain. I received a kind of strength that I needed so I could go home and deal with the situation with my mom and grandmother.

The other time was in 2001. My friends and I were on a cruise to Nova Scotia when we started hearing rumblings at breakfast about some planes crashing in New York – it was September 11<sup>th</sup>, and we were in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. There was no place to go – we all checked in with our loved ones at home and continued on our cruise. However, when the cruise was over, because of the harbor being closed, they couldn't bring us back to New York, so they had to bring us to Boston, where we got bussed back to the Woodbury Commons outlet mall in New York. Bob Mortensen, one of my choir members, drove up to get us. Again, what better friend could you have. And, again, I just wanted to be in church with my extended family and feel God's presence and peace.

This place is very special. I found my best friend here when Debi Valenzuela and I were thrown together to run the youth group. Mom and I both have found friends that became family, including the Kelshaws, Schlosshauers, Hawkins, Ormsbees and Heitschels. I found another extended family in my choir members. Over the years, the choir faces have changed, but the feelings have remained deep and loving. It does help that we're all a little crazy!

A few months back, Bob Keller said something that really stuck with me – he said that we all know that you don't have to attend church to be a Christian – you can worship with TV preachers, radio preachers, or just pray by yourself and be with God – but, without this building, I wouldn't have met any of you and my life would certainly have been much emptier.

On more than one occasion, I've told my mom that I wouldn't hesitate to call on any one of our members if I needed help with something – there's just that feeling that we're all here for each other, no matter what. Our love of God ties us together, and the good feelings that come from Him are shared among us. You can feel it on Sunday mornings when we're all hugging each other during the passing of the peace – it just resonates in this room.



I want to thank each and every one of you, especially Pastor Jeff, for sharing that love every week. You may never know how much it really means to me.

## Ryan Laux

It's a funny story how my family and I ended up joining the church family. It was after an 8<sup>th</sup> grade soccer game that I walked off the field, all sweated up, to Pastor Jeff half picking up bobby, and half handing me a pretty hefty packet. There he asked me if I would like to be in a play he was producing. I was a little unsure about it at moment, so I just said I'd think about it. A few days later, he came to my doorstep to deliver a revised script. He really wanted me to act in the play. Eventually I thought I give it a shot. It turned out to be a good choice.



The first meeting discussing the play, later what we would all know as "The Confirmation Play," I remember walking down the sanctuary aisle, fashionably late, to a circle of kids I did know, and others that were new to me. But unlike meeting new people on the first day at school, meeting new people here was different. Everything about it was inviting. I left the meeting that night with a sense of excitement and happiness.

Eventually after months of preparation, we performed the Confirmation Play in April of the next season, and it was a huge success. But even after spending every other Sunday night at Church practicing for over 5 months, I still didn't actually attend church here! However when it came time to be confirmed in June, choosing this church over the one we had been attending wasn't second guessed.

After that, we began joining Sunday worship here every week. Coming here for almost three years, I have to say it's been really great. Although I'm only a teenager, I don't think I could ask for a better place to be a Christian. Everyone here is extremely nice, I've learned a lot about the bible from our very detailed examinations of bible passages with our teacher Ms. Lynn, the plays I played a part in were very fun to be a part of, and let's not forget coffee hour sweets (Even though Dad makes sure I don't exactly have dessert for lunch). I can easily say the Parsippany United Methodist Church has become a big part of my life, and has made me stronger as a person, and a follower of God.

To wrap up I'd have to say the most fun part of my experience here has been being a part of the youth group. In the past year, the fundraisers, events, and great times I have shared with other members have been very rewarding. Our most recent goal as a group was to fund the creation of a well in Kenya. On that note, I'd like to invite up the members of the group for a special update on that project.

## Ese Dente

To become a part of this church changed my life. You all have made me feel so very welcome. Finding this church happened for me at just the right time. Pastor Jeff and his family have been my next door family while I took care of an elderly man named Bill. When my son Joe arrived from our homeland of Ghana, Pastor Jeff and his family welcomed him and made him feel very happy to be here. It was pretty overwhelming for him at first, but Pastor Jeff got him on a soccer team where Joe could do something he could feel good about. Bobby treated him like a little brother. They helped us get the things he needed. He enjoyed Sunday School and made many friends.

Pastor Jeff and all the cast of the Christmas Play were patient and encouraging of Joe when he was given a big part. I was so proud of him.

When my older children – Gina, Deborah and Steven arrived four months ago the church welcome them in a way I appreciated greatly. Soon after that, Bill died, and the church has helped us feel supported as we face the uncertainties of the future. I feel God's presence with us to strengthen us. I truly believe that...

*"Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come. 'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home."*

## The Cogan Kids on Father's Day

**Cassie:** We are the Cogan Kids. We love our daddy so much

**Beth:** because he cooks for us

**TJ:** he loves us always

**Marissa:** he plays monster with us

**Cassie:** he puts good games on the computer

**Beth:** We love the men in our church because:

**Edward:** they serve snacks after church

**Beth:** and they give us hugs

**Marissa:** We are thankful for:

**Cassie:** Our daddy

**Beth:** Pastor David

**Marissa:** Pastor Bob

**Cassie:** Mr. Tom

**Edward:** Pastor Jeff

**TJ:** Bobby

**Cassie/Beth/Marissa:** and all the men in our church!



## A Presentation made on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011

On this day the congregation of the **Parsippany United Methodist Church** pauses to express our deep gratitude to **Wes and Elda Sitgreaves** for years of tireless service organizing garage sales in support of common ministry.

Together Wes and Elda have put in thousands of hours behind the scenes...

*publicizing sales,  
recruiting buyers and volunteers,  
toting and unpacking boxes,  
sorting, cleaning, pricing and displaying  
thousands of objects big and small,  
and afterwards  
packing up once more  
everything that did not sell.*








Most of the work went unseen, but in the process they raised **over \$65,000** to help us meet our church budget so that we could continue to witness to Jesus and his love in our community.

In their service together as a couple Wes and Elda modeled for the rest of us team work and cooperation as well as a bit of fun competition.

We are profoundly thankful for all they have done!

# Make a Bug Snack!

You will need:

-  celery
-  peanut butter
-  raisins
-  cream cheese
-  paprika



How to make it:

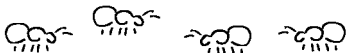
- Clean celery.
- Cut into 3" long pieces.
- Fill celery with peanut butter.
- Arrange raisins in a row on the peanut butter.

You now have "bugs on a log!"

or

- Fill celery with cream cheese.
- Sprinkle with paprika.

You have "red ants on a log!"



# Just for KIDS

## Bugs in the Bible

Whether at a picnic, on the beach or playing outdoors, it seems like we're always joined by uninvited guests – bugs!

Bugs and other little creatures are mentioned in the Bible.

Fill in the blanks with the little creatures mentioned in each verse. Circle them in the puzzle below.

- Proverbs 6:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- Exodus 16:20 \_\_\_\_\_
- Psalms 78:45 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Sam. 24:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matt. 23:24 \_\_\_\_\_
- Isaiah 50:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- Judges 14:8 \_\_\_\_\_
- Isaiah 59:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 12:23 \_\_\_\_\_
- Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Deuteronomy 7:20 \_\_\_\_\_

M O T H S G N A T B H  
 A N T A L L C H P E O  
 G R A S S H O P P E R  
 G F C R I C K E T S N  
 O L S P I D E R S B E  
 T E C L O C U S T D T  
 S A E F K A T Y D I D  
 G F L I E S W O R M S

Answer: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket

**GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
JUNE 1-4, 2011**

**I represented you at the Greater NJ Annual Conference for 4 days in early June. About 1400 Clergy and Laity from about 600 churches gathered in Valley Forge Pennsylvania. In those 50 hours, I attended all of the worship services Bible Studies, and plenary sessions with their many resolutions, reports, nominations, appointments, voting for delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences and awards. One award was for local church History. We could try for that one in another year. I think we have a written history up to the mid-eighties. We could add to that and submit it. The theme of this conference was “Making Disciples for the Transformation of the World: Through our Gifts.”**

**In his Episcopal Address, Bishop Devadhar spoke about sharing our gifts and giving God the first gifts. He asked us to consider what gifts we can bring to the table. He said that nationally, one-third of United Methodists attend church in a given week. In our Conference 52% attend. Bishop Devadhar appointed four new District Superintendents including the Rev. Steve Bechtold for our Skylands District.**

**This year’s Conference Speaker/Teacher was The Rev. Mike Slaughter. He has written many books including Christmas Is Not Your Birthday. He highlighted the Great Requirements: Act Justly, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly with God. We have been singing that every week.**

**The 2012, Tampa Florida General Conference Delegates elected were: Clergy, Drew Dyson, Varlyna Wright, Jessica Campbell, Heasun Kim, and Tanya Bennett; Laity: Lynn Caterson, John Bishop, Jay Brown, Mark Miller, Bethany Amey. They will join those elected to the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference in Charleston West Virginia: Clergy, Sung Hoon Ahn, Christopher Heckert, John Di Giamberardino, Lysette Perez, and Charles Bender; Laity: Samuel Sim, June McCullough, Judy Colorado, Rosa Williams, and Constance Ace. Alternates include: Clergy, Robert Costello, Vivian Rodeffer, and Jisun Kwak; Laity, Cynthia Kent, Creed Pogue, and Weagba Nelson.**

**Information on Annual Conference may be found in the June-July *Relay* and online. A Journal including details of the Annual Conference will be published in the fall. Jeff and I will have DVD’s of the Journal. In 2012, Annual Conference will be held from May 31st to June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Valley Forge Convention Center.**


**Respectfully submitted,**

**Elizabeth Polen  
Lay Member**



# September 2011

## United Methodist Church of Parsippany

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