

HILLTOPPER

United Methodist Church of Parsippany

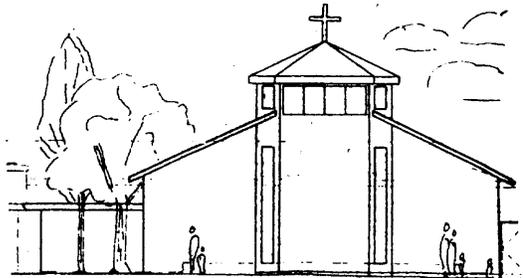
903 So. Beverwyck Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054 (973) 887-4657

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

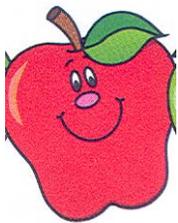
Sunday Worship Celebration: 10:30 a.m.

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"



OCTOBER, 2011



ANNUAL HAPPY APPLE BAZAAR – Saturday, October 22nd, 10 to 3

Start thinking now for the bazaar – we will need the following....

Workers for the bazaar – Workers will be needed for setting up on Friday night, and for the whole day the day of the bazaar – need people to help at booths, especially to give others a break during the day.

- Donate a themed basket for the silent auction. Speak to Monica Hawkins, Barb Bradley or Connie Keller if you have questions. Baskets need to be at the church the Sunday before the bazaar.
- Bring in GOOD used toys, stuffed animals, games any time before the bazaar for the toy booth.
- Bring in GOOD used jewelry - this needs to be delivered to the church as soon as you can. Any gold jewelry is appreciated – we have a good contact to sell gold through and this can be considered a donation to the church. Speak to Karen Wilk or Diane Anastasi – also needed are small JEWELRY BOXES
- Bring in used books - fiction only - any time before the bazaar
- Bring any SMALL, NICE items for the garage sale table (no longer using the large room). See Wes Sitgreaves.

If you'd like to participate by either setting up on Friday afternoon or evening; helping out during the bazaar; or helping to clean up after the bazaar, please let us know! All willing hands are welcome! It's a fun day of service to your church and spending time with your church family.

Speak to Barb Bradley or Connie Keller if you have any questions

From the
PASTOR

A sermon preached by Pastor Jeff on August 21, 2011 based upon Exodus 1:8 – 2:10, entitled “Evolving Beyond the Primitive Brain.”

Approximately 15 billion years ago, the best science suggests, all of the energy and matter that existed was compressed into one tiny speck, from which the “big bang” took place, sending forth matter and energy out in every direction. From that moment in time, the precise physical laws of the universe were in place that were necessary for life to appear 11 billion years later, followed by the ongoing process scientists call “evolution” for ever-more complex forms of life to appear, leading on to this latest leg of the ongoing process human life has emerged. These laws, including the principles of evolution, are seen by the eyes of faith as signs of a loving creator, whose creation was not aimless, but leading definitively somewhere.

The evolutionary process is not finished. Evolution continues. Most significant from our point of view is the ongoing evolution of the human brain, and its capacity to host human spirit, or consciousness.

The story of Moses describes an evolutionary leap taking place in the realm of the human spirit that is no less significant in its own way than when that first sea creature crawled, for a time, on land.

Scientists speak of human beings sharing with other mammals what is called the “primitive brain.” It is the instinctual response we have from a perceived threat to either fight or to take flight.

Exodus begins describing dog eat dog human society, where the Pharaoh of Egypt feels threatened by the immigrant Hebrews, whose number steadily grows. What if they take over the country, he wonders. He tries oppressing the Hebrew with heavy work burdens, but the life force of these Hebrews could not be denied, and still they continue to prosper. And then he resorts to something far more diabolical, a strategy tried countless times afterwards by Hitler and all his cronies in history. He instructs the Hebrew midwives to kill the Hebrew baby boys. With no Hebrew boys to grow up and mate with the Hebrew girls, this ethnicity will die out. But these women midwives sense a higher calling and refuse to participate. Pharaoh then instructs all of his people to participate in the extermination of the Hebrew baby boys.

A conspiracy takes place among women that defies primitive brain mentality of Pharaoh – the mentality often dominant in men. A certain Hebrew mother gives birth to a baby boy, and then hides him for three months. When she realizes she can no longer safely conceal her child from the baby killers, she hatches a plot that relies on her trust that no woman could hand over a baby to destruction, no matter what the race or nationality, once she has looked into the child’s eyes. So the Hebrew mother places her baby in a basket and places the basket in the reeds of the Nile precisely where Pharaoh’s daughter comes daily to swim. And true to form, Pharaoh’s daughter embraces the baby boy and takes him into her home as her own son, and gives him the name “Moses.”

Let me take a little aside here to recall Tony Campollo in a sermon inviting an awkward teenage boy up on stage with him. He pointed out to the boy and everybody present that the boy was an incredible winner. His existence was the result of one tiny sperm cell beating out 40 million other sperm cells in a race to couple with a single egg. He was a winner, far greater than the Tour de France or the Super Bowl. Campollo had the kid raise his arms over his head in a victory pose.

The seed of the evolutionary leap that would move humanity beyond the fight or flight options of the primitive brain was present in Moses. Somehow he manages to survive the cut, after thousands of other baby boys are exterminated. He grows up, ironically, in Pharaoh’s household cared for by his biological mother. One day as a young man he ventures out of the palace and witnesses for the first time the oppression of his own flesh and blood, the Hebrews. A taskmaster is beating a Hebrew slave, and the fight instinct of the primitive brain holds sway in Moses’ consciousness as he rises up to kill the taskmaster. The next day when Moses discovers his violence has not gone unnoticed, he feels threatened, and this time he responds with flight.



Many years pass. One day as Moses is going through the routine of his daily job, he has an encounter with a bush that is burning but not consumed, out of which the same mysterious creator who was present in that original big bang 15 billions years ago, creating a creation with a definite intention, speaks directly to Moses. Moses discovers that this God cherishes the oppressed, and sends Moses to Pharaoh to tell him to “Let my people go.” Which Moses does. Unlike his first encounter with injustice, now Moses neither flees nor relies on violence – he brings what Gandhi would later call “soul force” -- the power of the truth to set loose a new, higher consciousness into the world. For the first time in the history of the human race, Moses gives expression to a new kind of conflict resolution between tribes, although more often than in the three thousand years that follow this evolutionary leap will not be followed. Nonetheless, with Moses and his liberation movement this new spiritual DNA is part of the human race, with Martin Luther King, Jr. and countless others would following in the path he had blazed.



A couple of years ago the Irish rock star Bono, who happens to be a Christian with a burning desire to help the oppressed of Africa, was the guest speaker at a regularly meeting prayer breakfast in Washington, DC attended by countless congress men and women of both parties, and on occasion the president. In his speech to President Bush and the others in positions of power, Bono harkened back to Moses' appearance before Pharaoh:

“It's annoying but justice and equality are mates. Aren't they? Justice always wants to hang out with equality. And equality is a real pain.

“You know, think of those Jewish sheep-herders going to meet the Pharaoh, mud on their shoes, and the Pharaoh says, ‘Equal?’ A preposterous idea: rich and poor are equal? And they say, ‘Yeah, equal, that's what it says here in this book. We're all made in the image of God.’

And eventually the Pharaoh says, ‘OK, I can accept that. I can accept the Jews - but not the blacks. Not the women. Not the gays. Not the Irish. No way, man.’

So on we go with our journey of equality. On we go in the pursuit of justice.”

Edgar Mitchell was the sixth American astronaut to walk on the moon. He grew up on a farm in the Midwest and was drawn into the world of science as a teenager and the materialistic world view that often goes hand in hand. He was a fighter pilot in Korea, after which he joined the Space program.

At the age of 40 he accomplished the extraordinary feat of walking on the moon. For Mitchell, however, the most powerful experience occurred on the flight back to earth. With the major work accomplished, and time to relax he gazed out the window of the cockpit as it slowly turned full circle every hour. He saw the distant galaxies of which our sun is a part. He pondered how far the human race had come with his flight – how his grandparents had traveled after the civil war by wagon train out west with no electricity, no cars or planes, and here there great grandson less than a hundred years later had walked on the moon.

He saw his journey to the moon and back, *“as an evolutionary step for mankind, from the water, to the trees, to land and out into space.”* He saw the earth below, and could make out the continents, and thought about his younger brother who was in southeast Asia flying missions in Vietnam, and pondered the violence of the human race.

And suddenly, his fundamental consciousness shifted. He experienced what he would later call the “ecstasy of unity,” wherein he suddenly realized that everything truly was connected. That the point of view of the Newtonian physics that had allowed him to fly to the moon whereby everything is distinct, separate particles, was, in fact fundamentally wrong. That at the deepest level, we are all one – all part of that original unity of the speck of energy and matter that existed before the big bang.

Mitchell spent the next forty years of his life studying both religion and science trying, to make sense of what he had experienced on the return trip from the moon. He remembered his father, a dairy farmer, who would wake up in the middle of the night somehow knowing that one of his cows was having trouble giving birth and needed help. What was the mechanism through which his father knew such things? It seemed clear to Mitchell that it was connected to this underlying unity he had experienced – a unity largely unexplored by science.

Although Mitchell's experience may have been the most intense, every other astronaut experienced something similar. It came to be called “the overview effect” that fosters an awareness of the underlying unity of every living being.

Said one, "You say to yourself, down there is humanity, love, feeling and thought. You wonder if you could get everyone in the world up there, wouldn't they have a different feeling."

Former Republican senator Jake Garn was aboard a 1985 space flight as part of a committee providing oversight to NASA. Looking down on the slowly revolving earth, he felt all the political boundaries melt away. Flying over the Third world countries, he wondered why the governments of the Earth had not mobilized to feed every hungry child on the planet. "Why does this have to be?" he asked.

This earth is ours to care for -- we all share it. The weakest among us suffer the most when there is draught, and the climate change we have brought about by our consumption harms them directly. The poor suffer from what we, the rich of the earth have done.

This morning we are holding a special offering of the United Methodist Committee on Relief to assist the people starving in the Horn of Africa where the worst draught in sixty years is taking place. 12 million people are at risk of starving to death. Global warming, the consequence of the consumption of first world countries, is killing people in the third world.

I want to finish with some words Bono spoke before the people in power that day: "Sixty-five hundred Africans are still dying every day of a preventable, treatable disease, for lack of drugs we can buy at any drug store. This is not about charity, this is about justice and equality.

"Because there's no way we can look at what's happening in Africa and, if we're honest, conclude that deep down, we really accept that Africans are equal to us. In Africa, 150,000 lives are lost every month. A tsunami every month. And it's a completely avoidable catastrophe.

...This is not a Republican idea. It is not a Democratic idea. It is not even, with all due respect, an American idea. Nor it is unique to any one faith."

Bono went on to quote Christian, Muslim, and Jewish scriptures that all express the teaching that we have a responsibility to care for those who are less fortunate than ourselves. He finished:

"I was amazed when I first got to this country and I learned how much some churchgoers tithe. Up to 10% of the family budget. Well, how does that compare with the federal budget, the budget for the entire American family? How much of that goes to the poorest people in the world? Less than 1%.

Mr. President, Congress, people of faith, people of America:

I want to suggest to you today that you see the flow of effective foreign assistance as tithing.... Which, to be truly meaningful, will mean an additional 1% of the federal budget tithed to the poor. What is 1%? 1% is not merely a number on a balance sheet. 1% is the girl in Africa who gets to go to school, thanks to you. 1% is the AIDS patient who gets her medicine, thanks to you. 1% is the African entrepreneur who can start a small family business thanks to you. 1% is not redecorating presidential palaces or money flowing down a rat hole. This 1% is digging waterholes to provide clean water."

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he declares, "Do not be conformed to this world..." "This world" can be thought of as the primitive brain that has prevailed in human history with its endless attitude of us-against-them, whereby fight-or-flight is seen as the only two options. "But be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect." Let us embrace the evolutionary leap to which God is calling us.

In the kindness of Jesus
Pastor Jeff

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Anyone interested in becoming a member of our congregation is invited to speak to Pastor Jeff. Members will be received during a worship service during October.





In worship on September 11th we remembered the souls of those who had died, as our children brought candles to the altar.

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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 is invited to join him.

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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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Everyone is cordially invited to attend the installation of the Rev. Dr. Steven G. Bechtold as ***Skylands District Superintendent*** on Saturday, October 1, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Hackettstown. A light supper will follow in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Please let Pastor Jeff know if you would like to attend; the district office would like to have a count of how many people to expect for the supper.



United Methodist
Women

Looking back...Ruth Freerks, who is on the Board at Graystone, gave us a good background look at the old facility and information on the new one. Good program.

Bring a friend and please join us on....

Wednesday, October 5th – 7:00 p.m.
PROGRAM: Jolie Rajasekaran
REFRESHMENTS will be served

Oct. 8 – National Children’s Day
Oct. 10 – Columbus Day (obs)

Oct. 22 – Happy Apple Bazaar
Oct. 26 – Pie Day – Morris View N.H.
Oct. 31 - Halloween

Get well wishes to those of you who are ill, and
HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those of you celebrating this month with Linda Routhier (FL) and Diane Anastasi.

God Bless,
Doris Bradley

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

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Our **Annual Church Conference** will be held on **Wednesday, November 2nd at 7:45 p.m.** Our new district superintendent, Rev. Steven Bechtold will be on hand at we celebrate our life together as the church of Jesus Christ. Officers of our congregation will be elected. All members are encouraged to attend. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will meet with Rev. Bechtold before hand at 6:30 p.m.

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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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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

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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 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 OCTOBER

<u>Oct. 2nd</u> Exodus 20:1-4,7-9 Phil. 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46	<u>Oct. 9th</u> Exodus 32:1-14 Phil. 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14	<u>Oct. 16th</u> Exodus 33:12-23 1 Thes. 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22	<u>Oct. 23rd</u> Deuteronomy 34:1-12 1 Thes. 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46	<u>Oct. 30th</u> Joshua 3:7-17 1 Thes. 2:9-13 Matthew 23:1-12
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3 rd Linda Routhier	16 th Mark Chauhan
6 th Diane Anastasi	18 th Donroy Gounaud
8 th June Schnetzer	19 th Brenden Laux
9 th Jean Montecuolo	21 st Gordon Routhier
9 th Charles Nye	24 th Carrie Correale
10 th Keith Hawkins	25 th Kathy Isaacks
10 th Mae Lange	27 th Jeanne Weintraub
11 th Bert Morris	30 th Alyssa Letsch
14 th Jahn Schnetzer	

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

9 th Gordon & Linda Routhier
10 th Kathy & Henry Isaacks
19 th Jim & Karen Steen

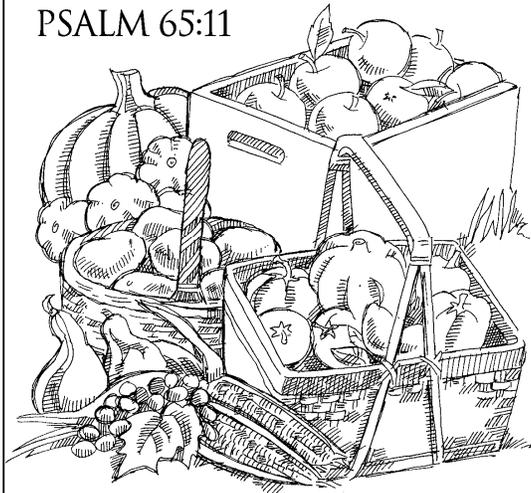
We have been wonderfully blessed to have **Kelly Tooley** in our midst over the past few months. Mother's Day was Kelly's last Sunday with us, and with the help of our children Pastor Jeff presented her with one of our prayer blankets and prayed over Kelly and her mom. For the next two years Kelly will 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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YOU CROWN
THE YEAR
WITH YOUR
BOUNTY...

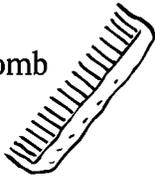
PSALM 65:11



“ Make an Instrument of Praise!”

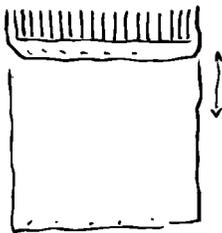
You will need:

- a fine-tooth comb
- waxed paper
- tape

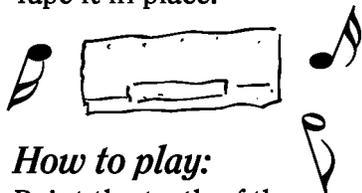


How to make:

Cut a piece of waxed paper as wide as your comb and long enough to wrap completely around it.

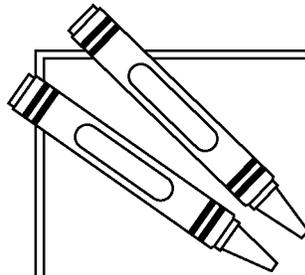


Wrap the paper around the comb. Make sure the points of the teeth are under a fold of the paper. Tape it in place.



How to play:

Point the teeth of the comb up. Hold the comb very close to your lips. Hum a song of praise! Be sure to hum with your mouth, not your nose! Your humming will cause the wax paper to vibrate, sounding like a kazoo!



Just for **KIDS**

A Special Song of Thanks

Use the music code to find the words for this familiar song of thanks.

CODE:

A ≡	E 	I 	O 	U 
B 	F 	L <	P 	V 
C 	G 	M ^	R 	W #
D 	H 	N 	S 	X 
			T 	Y 

Challenge: What do we commonly call this song?

The      

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen.

Doxology

October 2011

United Methodist Church of Parsippany

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