
The Window

Volume 2010, Issue 6

Mt. Fern United Methodist Church, Randolph, NJ

June 1, 2010



From the Pastor's Desk

The End of the Beginning

Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on that sad height,
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Dylan Thomas wrote that poem in 1953, the year of my birth. It has stood the test of time, as great poems invariably do, for generations of people to find strength when they are weak, to find hope when often they feel there is only despair. It is a spiritual summons for us to live full lives in the midst of our mortality. It is a chal-

lenge never to give up our dreams no matter what kind of adversity or tragedy befalls us. It calls us to fight to win a battle we are all one day destined to lose. The saying is true, "there is no such thing as a perfect world and no one gets to live in it forever." So we must hold on to that which we cherish and have the courage to stand fast against the storms of life.

There are some folks who feel that all mainline churches are on the verge of collapse. They point out the declining membership throughout all denominations and dwindling attendance at church worship services. Most of the faithful members throughout the land are senior citizens and many programs we used to have are now extinct. Some recall the "golden years" when churches were booming and ministry was alive with excitement. Now people are dying off and new regulars are hard to come by. Neighborhoods are now national as young people move out of the areas they grew up to find work.

Yet, for years people have spun that scenario and I must admit it is a tempting way to look at today's churches. Sure we could carry on until the last person is gone. Then we could fold up our tent and give all the assets back to the Conference. We would then become a memory and even that would fade with time. All we have to do is overlook a few things; be victims of our destiny instead of the creators of it.

What are those often overlooked things in the bleak picture? Well, for starters mainline denominational churches have stood the test of time and struggle for centuries. We have great facilities to offer to our communities for programs. Churches all across the land have served as sanctuary to those most in need going through difficult times. Harriett Tubman went from church to church in what became known as the "Underground Railroad" bringing slaves to freedom. In the past 250 years since our nation's birth church people have advocated for the poor and neglected, the marginalized and the oppressed. Church families have grown love for one another and have been inspired by music and liturgy when they worshipped.

And so here we are at a fork in the road to determine the direction of ministry as Christian people. It is a time to take stock of what we hope to accomplish as a congregation. God will not judge

what we do here but what were our attitudes and intentions. Personally, I believe we are stronger in the midst of our weakness than we ever have been in the entire history of Christendom. Let me explain.....

Life is so hard and complex it is easy for us to become disillusioned and cynical. We gradually come to doubt what we used to believe in. We get older and we doubt our idealism. We come to doubt our loved ones and we even doubt ourselves. Especially we doubt our institutions like the church we belong to. We find an easy excuse to exit because we just don't want to deal with it anymore. The Church as we know it has become the church we do not want it to be.

Yet the Church is bigger than you and me. The Church is not the Bishop, or the District Superintendent, or even the program staff of the Conference Office. The Church is not annual charge conference reports. The Church is not liberal pastors who write salty articles in newsletters which sometimes annoy readers. It is not the Bibles or the colored vestments or candles lit under a cross. The Church is not baptisms, weddings, or funerals. The Church is not the Book of Discipline or the Shared Ministries Fund. It is not raking in money or new members to measure success and failure. The Church is not rubber-chicken dinners or rummage sales or leaky parsonage radiators. It is not the pews or the stained-glass windows or even the preached-word itself.

No, you see, these are just symbols, a prayer really, of our "desire" to love God. These trappings represent our determination to remain faithful. And theological study has taught me if we want to be faithful all we need do is act with faith. If we want our church to grow all we need do is work to make it grow. We need to believe in ourselves....as much as God believes in us....no matter how old we are and no matter how many in numbers we are. I still believe there is goodness and GREATNESS in the hearts of people who call themselves followers of Jesus Christ.

So here is what I believe about the future of The Mt. Fern United Methodist Church:

It is not the end.
It is not even the beginning of the end.
But it is the end of the beginning!

Don't be angry. Don't be afraid. Don't be confused. In our weakness we are indeed strong. The future isn't what it used to be. Hope is a good thing and nothing good ever dies. Let's be the Church and let's get to work.

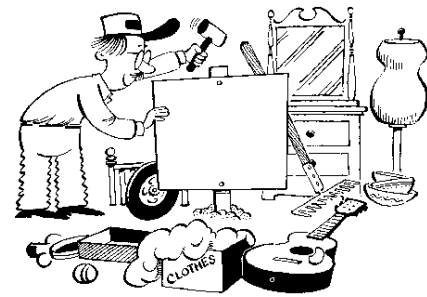
"Do not go gentle into that good night.

Rage, rage against the dying of the light.....!"

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Jack M. Copas, D-Min.

Pastor



2010 Garage Sale Huge Success!

Carol and Bill Willersdorf want to thank everyone who helped with the sale. Over \$7,400 will be split 50/50 between the Church and ASP!

What is great about a garage sale, in addition to raising funds for worthy causes:

- People feel good about donating to charity.
- It keeps slightly used or out-grown items from going to landfills.
- It reduces the carbon and water footprint we place upon the Earth, as garage sales represent true 'recycling'.
- It spurs the economy, including jobs, since people who have donated used items, now have room for new things they can buy.
- Most importantly, it allows local families to get great deals on items such as children's clothing, toys, books, furniture and even clothing for Mom and Dad.
- It brings people together for a common cause. While it was great to see everyone that came out, it was especially great to see so many Youth pitching in- some all day long.

News and Notes

Oliver Bateman has developed an Elderly Parking Area in our parking lot. He and some others have completed this as part of his Eagle Scout Project. He will receive the coveted award in November. Oliver will be a freshmen at Aeronautical Engineering at Daniel Webster College in New Hampshire. Thank you from the Mt. Fern Congregation and congratulations in advance.



Summer Ministry of Gifts and Talents

by Jeff Evans

Beginning Sunday, May 30th, and running through Labor Day Sunday, we are looking for instrumentalists, singers, worship dancers, poets, visual artists, puppeteers, actors, pantomimists—whatever your art form--to volunteer to share in the **Ministry of Gifts and Talents** for the day. We're continuing what we began three summers ago—broadening the scope from the traditional "Ministry of Music" concept to make it possible for more people to participate. *Any* type of art form (vocal, instrumental, ensemble, music--accompanied, performance track or un-accompanied, dance, poetry, dramatic reading, skit, puppetry, pantomime, visual arts, etc.) and in *any* style is welcome! This list is not exclusive; it's just what came to mind. **The only real requirement for doing a Ministry of Gifts and Talents is that the person doing it wants to do his/her best, with a heart to please the Lord.** Please resist the temptation to decline this opportunity because you feel you're not "good enough". That's not what this is about. Please prayerfully consider being a part of our Ministry of Gifts and Talents this summer. You will be blessed and, I am sure, will be a blessing to others! This would be a wonderful chance for your child to "get his/her feet wet" in being in front of people. What better place to start than with your loving church family? **A sign-up sheet will be posted on Sunday, May 16th.** If you have any questions, please call me at 973-452-5292 (cell). Thank you for serving the Lord and Mt. Fern in this way.



As we end another choir season together, Karen and I want to express our gratitude to the Chancel Choir for their hard work and dedication to the church's music ministry this year. We appreciate each one of you so much. Thank you for the time you gave at rehearsals and, most of all, for giving your best on Sunday mornings as we ministered musically in worship



Celebrate Father's Day, June 20th,, By Singing in the Men & Boys Chorus

by Jeff Evans

All men and boys of the church are invited to participate in a Men's Chorus for **Father's Day, June 20th.** Fathers, bring your sons; however, you don't need to be a father (or even a "singer") to participate.

We will gather in the sanctuary at 9AM. This should give us enough time to rehearse for the Ministry of Music at our **one 9:30AM service.** Last year was really fun. Let's do it again! Please join us!

To God's Glory,
Jeff Evans



Bike Hike 1010, Saturday, June 5th
7:30 am to 1:00 pm

Staggered Starts from 8:30 to 9:30
Loantaka Park, Morris Township

Join us as we celebrate 25 years of building affordable homes with families in need. Register at www.morrishabitat.org or call 973.891.1934



Annual Choir Picnic

The Annual Choir Picnic will be held during the summer months — the date to be announced. Thanks to the generosity of Joyce Schwalm, the choir picnic will be held at her summer cottage on Raccoon Island, Lake Hopatcong. Please bring a covered dish and a beverage with you. For further information contact Joyce Schwalm at 973-366-2281 or Ed Daniels at 973-361-1969.

Spaghetti Dinner



Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, June 26th

Tickets: Adults - \$8.00

Senior Citizens

(62 and up) - \$6.00

Children 3-12 - \$4.00

Under 3 - Free

Continuous Family Style

Serving 4:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Envision is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, June 26th with continuous family style service from 4:30 - 8 p.m. The proceeds of the dinner will benefit the church. Help is needed to run it successfully in areas from cooking to serving to cleaning up. Sign-up sheets are available in Fellowship Hall on the mobile bulletin board. It is a time of great fun, fellowship and hard work which all goes to help our church. Members of Mt. Fern are asked both to buy tickets for themselves and to sell tickets to friends, neighbors and family. **See Christian Matthew for more details.**

Think Summer



Our Mt. Fern Dinner Group is planning its annual trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on July 22nd to see a wonderful summer Broadway style show and eating an absolutely delicious meal. The cost is \$60 per ticket—includes show, lunch, tip and tax. Contact Ed Daniels for reservations and info. Please let him know by if you are interested.



The 16th Walk for All Ages

Join us for the 16th Annual Walk for the Ages through Victorian Ocean Grove, Sunday, June 13th. Worship Service in the Great Auditorium at 10:30 a.m. Registration is 12:30 p.m. at the Great Auditorium Pavilion and registration for guided tours of historical tent area and entertainment by Ocean Grove Auditorium Choir. Welcome and Blessing by Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar at 1:30 p.m. . The Walk will begin at 1:30 PM. Family Buffet Luncheon at 1:30 p.m. at Francis Asbury Manor. At 2:00 p.m. Entertainment by the AIM FC band and Awards Ceremony. We are encouraging families and congregations to attend this annual event to raise money for the Fellowship Fund. The walk route continues from the Great Lawn to Ocean Pathway, to the boardwalk and on to Francis Asbury Manor. For those unable to walk the route, there will be bus transportation from the Great Auditorium to Francis Asbury Manor. The brochure to register for the Walk can be downloaded at www.umh-nj.org.



56th Annual Ocean Grove Choir Festival

Sunday Evening, July 11th

"In the Beginning, God"

The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association will be hosting its 56th Annual Choir Festival on Sunday evening, July 11th, at 7:30 PM in Ocean Grove's magnificent 6500 seat Great Auditorium. This 56th Annual Choir Festival will be an opportunity to experience the power and majesty of our Lord through beautiful music. This year's list of talented conductors includes: Dr. Jason C. Tramm, Robert Ray, Dr. Cindy Bell, Adam Waite, Dr. Charles Prestinari, Lewis Daniels and Byung Cook Kwak. This thrilling combination of over 1000 singers, grand brass, and our famous organ will surely be a memorable event! There is no charge for registration or admission. For further information, contact Jeff Evans at 973-366-9629.

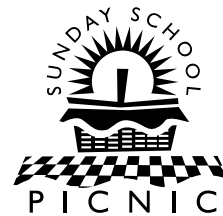


Ocean Grove Choir Festival Rehearsals to Be Held at Mt. Fern.

The 56th Annual Ocean Grove Choir Festival will be held in the Great Auditorium on July 11, 2010 at 7:30PM. We will be holding local rehearsals in Mt. Fern's sanctuary for six consecutive **Tuesdays at 7:30 PM**, beginning June 1st. We are so blessed that Henry Repp, Director of Music at Peapack Reformed Church, will be coming in to lead us. Henry was a former organist at First Memorial Presbyterian Church of Dover. We are grateful to God for Henry's wonderful musical gifts and that he will be with us. There will also be rehearsals available on Monday nights, beginning on June 7th, in Hackettstown at St. James Episcopal Church. These will be very ably led by Al and Vicki Kopacka, who have done these for many years. Al directs the Sussex County Chorus and he and Vicki are on music staff at the Community Presbyterian Church in Chester. The Ocean Grove Choir Festival brings together choirs and individual singers from the tri-state area and well beyond, numbering nearly 1000 voices. This, along with the Great Auditorium's world-class pipe organ (of over 10,000 pipes) and the Festival Brass make for a thrilling time of music and worship. For details or questions, please contact Jeff Evans at jeff7074@verizon.net or 973-452-5292.



Children's Day, June 13th. We are asking for donations of packs of hotdogs, buns, chips, coleslaw and pickles. A hot dog lunch will be served following the service on that day. **All are invited.** We all are children of God. Watch for sign-up sheet on rolling bulletin board.



Mt. Fern Sunday School Trip on June 19th to the Turtle Back Zoo. What a great way to celebrate our Sunday School Children. All our welcome. More information to follow. Sign-up sheet on the rolling bulletin board.





High School Graduates — Class of 2010!

Oliver Bateman	Randolph High School. Will attend Daniel Webster College in New Hampshire and major in Aeronautical Engineering.
Glenn Borsky	Randolph High School. Will attend Drew University in Madison.
Nicole Dussault	Valedictorian Randolph High School 2010 Class. Will attend Columbia University, NYC.
Domenick Esposito	Randolph High School. Will attend University of South Carolina.
Lee Newton	Randolph High School. Will attend Rochester Institute of Technology and major in Computer Game Design and was the recipient of a \$12,000 Merit Scholarship..
Chelsea Obremski	Randolph High School. Will attend Philadelphia University.
Adam Westenberger	Randolph High School. Will attend New Jersey Institute of Technology as part of the Albert Dorman Honors College, and will be studying Civil Engineering.

College/University Graduates — Class of 2010!

Chris Evans	County College of Morris. Graduated in January 2010. Degree in Associate in Arts / Sociology with Education Specialization. Attending William Paterson College And majoring in History and Secondary Education.
Nicole Hildebrandt	William Patterson College, B.A. in Education / History. Plans to teach.
Kristie Obremski	The Culinary Institute of America. Degree in Baking and Pastry. Plans to work as a pastry chef.
Cale Petermann	Johnson and Wales, Providence, Rhode Island. Associate Degree in Culinary Science.
Noelle Quam	University of Virginia, Degree in American Studies. Has been accepted for the "Teach for America" program and will teach for two years in a rural section of North Carolina. Plans to attend law school after that.
Dr. Laura (Goglas) Robinette	Residency Program in Internal Medicine (Med/Peds) and Pediatrics with a degree of M.D. Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. Future plans 2010-2011, Chief Resident Internal Medicine at the University Hospital, Newark, N.J. And in 2011 Practice Medicine—Primary Care Physician.
Megan Ruppel	York College of Pennsylvania. B.S. in Education. Plans to teach elementary school students.

**Graduates will be honored at the Worship Service on Sunday, June 13th at 9:30 a.m.
We hope to see many graduates at the service.**

A “Thank You” Note from Dottie



It was my joy to be privileged to serve the Mt. Fern UMC. The greatest thrill was when I directed the Children’s Choir. To hear the children sing praises to God was for me the highlight of what worship is all about. Teaching Confirmation Classes, the second service Sunday School Class, Vacation Bible School, the boys and girls scout badge classes; and more recently my involvement with the Wednesday Morning Bible Study Class were also a privilege and a joy. Everything else I did was to the Glory of God.

I have loved and prayed for you, and watched your children grow into fine young Christian men and women. I served the Lord with gladness; and now as I move into a new phase in my life, these young people have an opportunity to love and serve the Lord at Mt. Fern or wherever they are.

Thanks to the Wednesday Morning Bible Study Class for the beautiful celebration in my honor on Sunday, May 16th. To the congregation, I wish to say that I am very grateful for your presence, your generosity and your kindnesses to me. I deeply appreciate your love and friendship. Thank you all very much.

In Deepest Sympathy

*Diane Petermann and family
on the passing of her father*

*Chike Onyenso and family
on the passing of his mother.*

*In the love that surrounds you,
may you find strength.*

*In the memories you cherish,
may you find peace.*

Envision Looking Ahead

The light of God is bright, but not bright enough to erase all the darkness in the world. We all must work hand in hand with the Lord to envision and build a greater, brighter future. Thankfully, the Envision Group has their eyes on that prize and is keeping busy with several great projects aimed at uplifting Mt. Fern through fundraising and fellowship.



Thus far, we have had some very successful monthly Pot Luck Dinners and are working hard towards an even more successful Spaghetti Dinner/Fundraiser on June 26. The trip to Discovery’s King Tut Exhibit on June 14 in New York City and the Fall Carnival on September 18 promise to be great fun. We also have a Children’s Day Celebration on June 13 and an amazing Pig Roast Dinner/Fundraiser on August 7.

Please visit the Envision Group’s bulletin board in Mt. Fern for upcoming events and the opportunity to volunteer on various projects or sign up for the trip to the King Tut exhibit in NYC.

Current Envision Projects

- Children’s Day June 13
- King Tut Exhibit Trip June 14
- Spaghetti Dinner June 26
- Pig Roast August 7
- Fall Carnival September 18



The Window
Mt. Fern United Methodist Church
443 Quaker Church Road
Randolph, NJ 07869

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Tel: (973) 366-4418
FAX: (973) 366-0634
Website: www.mtfernumc.org
Email: mtfernumc@optonline.net

Mt. Fern United Methodist Church



Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Nursery Care Provided

Window

Looking Ahead

School of Christian Mission at Centenary College
in Hackettstown.

**PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO NEWSLETTERS PUBLISHED IN
THE SUMMER. CALENDARS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR JULY AND
AUGUST ON THE FELLOWSHIP WELCOME TABLE**





2010

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<p>1</p> <p>7:30 pm Ocean Grove Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9 am - 12 noon MCREA Exec Bd 10 am Bible Study 6:30 - 9 pm SAT 7:00 pm Black River Piecemakers</p>	<p>3</p> <p>GNJAC Valley Forge, PA</p>	<p>4</p> <p>GNJAC Valley Forge, PA</p>	<p>5</p> <p>GNJAC Valley Forge, PA</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:30 am Worship 10:30 am UMW Bd Mtg 6 pm UMYF</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11 a.m. Lay Leadership Meeting 7:00 pm Al-Anon/AA 7:30 pm Bible Study at Dench's</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6 am - 8 pm Voting 7:30 pm Ocean Grove Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10 am Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 Children's Day</p> <p>9:30 am Worship 10 am Children's Day Lunch 6 pm UMYF</p>	<p>14</p> <p>King Tut Exhibit NYC 7:00 pm Al-Anon/AA</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:30 pm Ocean Grove Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Black River Piecemakers 5:30 pm Set up 7:00 - 9:00 pm Piano Recital (Joan Christi)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10 am Evangelism 7:30 pm Finance</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 am Turtle Back Zoo</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:30 am Worship 6 pm UMYF</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 pm Al-Anon/AA</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30—8:00 pm Interwoven Group 7:30 pm Ocean Grove Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10 am Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 pm Trustees</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00—9:00 pm Set-up for Spaghetti Dinner</p>	<p>26</p> <p>4:30—8:00 pm Spaghetti Dinner</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:30 am Worship 6 pm UMYF</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 pm Al-Anon/AA</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:30 pm Ocean Grove Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10 am Bible Study</p>			<p>Updated 06-03-10</p>