

# Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135

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DAVID REPENNING, PASTOR

Date: APRIL 2012

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Several weeks ago as I sat in the front of church during worship I thought about how blessed we are to have young people in our congregation. The Cherub choir was singing "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho," pronouncing all the words of the verses with great enthusiasm. In the same service three of our youth opened the service with several praise songs and prayer. Later that day I watched as the youth drama team gathered for practice of a play they will perform at the end of April. This past Sunday there were a bunch of kids with excited faces as they worshipped with friends and family.

Some of you miss a lot of this from the back of the church. Many of us also miss the number of kids involved at the Hangar. We have a Sunday School boys class, Sunday night youth group, a group of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders on Wednesday night, and up to 40 teens Friday night.

We are also working on Vacation Bible School for the summer. Though it only lasts a week, we impact the lives of between 60 and 100 kids in that one week. It is a great way to reach out to the community and to give our kids an extra boost of excitement about our Lord and the fellowship we share as Christians.

Friday night is a unique partnership with the Borough of Elmer's Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Substance Abuse (MASPA). Paid staff and many volunteers run the program from 7-9 PM. Our volunteers continue the program from 9 - 9:45 with a time of devotions and snacks. Most of the teens stay for this devotional time.

The MASPA program has received a state grant to add a new after school program for middle school students beginning in September. This is a cooperative program between Elmer, Upper Pittsgrove and Pittsgrove Municipal Alliances which will also be housed at the Hangar. Once again there will be a minimal number of paid staff supplemented by volunteers from our communities.

Elmer United Methodist Church has been playing a crucial role in all of these children's outreach programs. We provide the building space, many supplies and countless hours of volunteer time. Thank you to the many people from our church and the community who work hard with the kids and behind the scenes so that all of these programs can happen.

This year, on Easter Sunday, we will have a special Easter offering to help support the Hangar and Vacation Bible School. Our goal is that we will be able to fully fund

the VBS needs without any further pleas for financial help and that the Hangar committee will be able to be self-sufficient with supplies and building needs as we reach out to youth through the programs there.

In addition to our financial goals, we always need people help with our kids. If you enjoy working with children and have a few hours to spend, you can contact J Gresimer for the Hangar, Kim Chapman for VBS, Barb Repenning for Sunday School and Donna Stemberger for youth groups. Or you may call the office and leave me a message. You are also welcome to come out and observe any of these activities to see what is going on and how you can best serve God and our youth as we work together to build our future. Thank you in advance for all of your help.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Dave Repenning

## Holy Week Services

*Palm Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>*

*4pm Cantata Service*

*"Lord of Light"*

*By Bruce Greer & Nancy Gordon*

*Holy Thursday - April 5<sup>th</sup>*

*7:30pm Community*

*Communion Service*

*Elmer Presbyterian Church*

*Good Friday - April 6<sup>th</sup>*

*12 Noon - 3:00pm*

*"Seven Last Words of Christ"*

*Elmer United Methodist Church*

*Easter Sunday - April 8<sup>th</sup>*

*6:30am Easter Sunrise Service*

*Home of Joan and Fritz Harz*

*Remember to bring your lawn chairs*

*Breakfast will follow at the*

*Elmer Presbyterian Church*

*8:30 & 10am Morning Worship Services*

*11:15am Sunday School*

<u>Attendance:</u>	Early	MorningS. School	
Mar. 4	28	93	42
Mar. 11	19	134	48
Mar. 18	16	131	31
Mar. 25	21	114	37
<u>Stewardship:</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>S.School</u>
Mar. 4	\$5,336.50	\$978.00	\$20.35
Mar. 11	\$4,484.00	\$895.00	\$40.50
Mar. 18	\$3,990.00	\$539.00	\$28.45
Mar. 25	\$5,145.00	\$451.00	\$24.35

# "Lord of Light"

An Easter Cantata

By Bruce Greer and Nancy Gordon

4:00pm Palm Sunday, April 1, 2012

Hear Peter, the Woman at the Well, a Jewish Rabbi, a Jerusalem child and others tell of their personal experience of meeting Jesus, and how He transformed their darkness into glorious light. Through contemporary worship songs, hymns and compelling monologues and narrative, the Easter story is told in fresh tones.

Please join us as all the choirs participate in the cantata service as we "proclaim the message of Easter hope with 'Lord of Light' on Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00pm.

**Confirmation Classes** will begin shortly after Easter. If you are in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and interested in becoming a member of our church, please see Pastor Dave.



## Easter Egg Hunt

10am Saturday, March 31st

Deer Pen Park

Ages up to and including 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

We would appreciate donations of small wrapped candy, small toys, stickers, etc. that can be used as "egg stuffers." Please leave them in the basket in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you



## Easter 2012 Dedications

Help us beautify the sanctuary as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection! Lilies may be purchased in **honor** of or in **memory** of a friend, family member or loved one. If you wish to do so, please call Elinor Lubrano (856-279-8107) \$6.50 each. Checks may be made out to Elmer UMC.



### HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES CYTOMEGALOVIRUS (CMV) INFECTION

CMV is a common virus that can infect almost anyone. CMV is related to the viruses that cause chickenpox, herpes simplex and mononucleosis. Once you're infected with CMV, the virus remains with you for life, but it is not always active. If you're healthy, it mainly stays dormant. You can pass the virus to others during reactivation. Transmission of the virus occurs through exposure to body fluids including blood, urine, saliva, breast milk, tears, semen and vaginal fluids. It can spread by touching your eyes or the inside of your nose or mouth after coming in

contact with body fluids of an infected person or through organ transplantation or blood transfusions.

Most people infected with CMV who are otherwise healthy experience symptoms like fatigue, fever and muscle aches. People with compromised immunity can have visual impairment and blindness, pneumonia, diarrhea, ulcers in the digestive tract, hepatitis, behavioral changes, inflammation of the brain, seizures and coma. Babies who are affected at birth tend to be very sick.

There is no cure for CMV, but antivirals are the drug of choice. They slow down the virus reproduction, but can't destroy it. Researchers are studying new medications and vaccines to treat and prevent CMV.

Careful hygiene is the best prevention against CMV. Precautions: Wash your hands often. Use soap and water for 15 to 20 seconds especially if you have contact with young children or their diapers, drool or other oral secretions, or if they attend child care. Avoid contact with tears and saliva when you kiss a child. Avoid sharing food or drinking out of the same glass as others. Be careful with dirty diapers and tissues. Don't touch your hands to your face until after thoroughly washing your hands. Washing your hands is the best precaution against any infectious disease, but it is more important if you are pregnant because you won't want to get or pass this condition to your baby.

As always, if you have any questions or symptoms, discuss them with your doctor. This information is taken from the Mayo Clinic.

*"Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor. 6:20*

*Bonnie Kanady, RN*



## April Birthdays Happy Birthday to All!!!

- 1st Jaime Pitman
- 2nd Hailey Neher
- 4th TJ Laury
- 8th Heidi Priggemeier & Jesse Stemberger
- 9th Ian Abbey
- 11th Christina Richards & Christine Bishop
- 14th Arlinda Saul
- 15th Jenna Filippoli & Evelyn Becker
- 16th Herb Dilks
- 17th Toby Irelan
- 18th Taylor Brown & Robert Moore, III
- 19th Bonnie Bishop, Rebecca Hardman & Benjamin B. Timberman
- 21st Thomas Masters
- 23rd Delaney Dilks, Karen Both & Ashton Mottola
- 24th Catharine Wildman Parsons & Cheryl Yago
- 25th Connor Richards
- 26th Fletcher Nelson
- 28th Hannah Hitchner & Sam Walker
- 29th John Timberman



# Missions Report

Handi\* Vangelism International  
Campus Crusade – Story Runners  
Malaga Camp

HandiVangelism, a ministry of compassion, exists to share the love of the Lord Jesus Christ and to equip the church to share His love with people around the world who have disabilities, medical or mental health challenges or broken hearts so that they may become growing and serving members of the body of Christ.

Our church has supported two different families. Recently Paul and Beverly Lehto have retired. We also support Mark and Jodi Amey, Jodie has also retired but will remain as a volunteer. Mark remains Assistant Director of Handi\*Camp and a Discipleship Team member. As camp director Mark is busy all year. He contacts all the campers and visits them, also holding Bible Studies individually and as groups.

We also support Ron and Carol Green missionaries for Campus Crusade in the Story Runners division. Story Runners exists to prepare national workers for effective ministry through Bible story strategies. Half of the world's 12,000 people groups are unreached by the gospel. Story telling is a way to make sure a group has access to the gospel in their own language. Ron is instrumental in setting up the training for the nationals. He has spent time in many countries that we are not even allowed to know the names of. Because of all the foreign travel he has possibly contacted a virus that is causing swelling around his brain. He is in need of our prayers - for wisdom for the Doctors as they treat him and try to determine the root cause. Ron remains in communication with the teams he has been involved in planting all over the world and has been receiving amazing reports. In one report, over 300 Muslim women have come to faith in Christ through Bible stories. This is through an effort from his wife, Carol, who has been active is starting sewing centers in Muslim countries so women have a way of supporting themselves. In another report, when a trainer arrived in an African village, there were 59 Muslims wanting to be baptized in water because that is what the Bible stories talked about.

Another ministry we support is close to home, West Jersey Grove, or better known as Malaga Camp. A member of our congregation, Rev. John Robbins recently retired from President and Jack Howard has taken over. There are many ministries to take advantage of in the summer and many of our members are involved in the summer program. We even have a few members who live on the grounds year round! There are summer camps for children starting as young as 5 and going to post graduate, with many different themes to choose from. Sunday night services starting in June and running till September offer us great music and the opportunity to hear fantastic preaching from around the area. Camp meeting runs 2 weeks in August, a great way to be fed both body and

soul! {Our own, Eleanor Robbins, is master chef! Meals can be purchased for a small price.

Please continue to pray for all the missions we support.

Submitted by Kathy Laury  
Missions Committee

## Youth Activities

### **Middlers**

Meet every Wednesday at the Hangar  
from 6:30 to 7:30pm

Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>

Middler Mystery Night

5pm to 7pm

Meet at the Hangar and please bring \$5.00 for dinner

### **Junior/Senior High**

Gym Nights at the Hangar:

6:30-8pm Sundays, April 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **Senior High Sub Sale**

Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

Pick up time: 10 to 11am

## **YOUTH MUSICAL**

# "Let's Rock"

7pm

Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

Refreshments afterwards