

# Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135

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DAVID A. REPENNING, PASTOR

JANUARY 2013

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas. Barb and I had a nice time with our family. We find that our family is extending more and more through our children, renewed acquaintances with relatives and our daughter, Danielle's natural family. We thank all of you for your support and your Christmas gift of money and a book by Steve Seamands. It was good to worship and fellowship with many from our church family over the Christmas holidays.

As we prepare for the year 2013, I am excited about opportunities and possibilities for renewal in the Church. I would ask you to especially be in prayer for the next two months in our congregation. Former pastor, Dr. Stephen Seamands will be with us for several days beginning February 17 through February 19. This will be a time of special services and guidance in our small groups. Steve has written many books and speaks around the country on spiritual concerns. Some have already begun praying for the time. I urge you to be in prayer and preparation for this series of renewal services.

I will be preparing myself and praying for our church in the month prior to Steve's visit. Part of my time will be my pastor's renewal leave. Pastors in the United Methodist Church are requested to take a four week renewal leave once every 4 years. This is to be a time of reflection and experiencing something new in our lives. I will be going to Haiti to visit with Richard and Beverly Felmey of Feed My Sheep Ministries. I leave on January 10<sup>th</sup>. The first five days will be with others from my family and our church. Then I will spend an additional two weeks alone with the Felmey's, followed by a few days for personal reflection and reentering my family.

During this time I expect to learn about the people of Haiti and the ministries we support through Feed My Sheep Ministries. It will also be a time for me to separate from daily concerns of our community. I plan to spend time worshipping with the people of Haiti and being prayed for and with the congregations there.

The Felmey's continue to remind us that visitors to Haiti need to be fluid. We need to submit to the leadership, cultural norms and events of this trip. I pray that those with me and I will be shaped and touched by God's hand as we go on this pilgrimage. It is a journey with the expectation of going where God leads us. I pray all of us will experience God's guidance and intervention in our lives.

I will be back in the pulpit on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. While I am away Mike Chapman and the Aldine praise group will lead worship on January 13. The service on January 20 will be led by Ben Laury. The guest speaker will be Wayne Wright, a lay person with much experience speaking and doing Christian Ministry. On January 27 Ed Pitman will lead worship and speak. Rev. John Robbins will fill in for emergency pastoral needs.

When I return we will be preparing for Lent which starts on Ash Wednesday, February 13. Rev. Seamands will then start the

Lenten season with us for our renewal weekend. I pray that many of us will be revived in this time and the weeks leading up to Easter. Please join me in this time to pray and seek God's touch.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Dave Repenning

**The Adult Fellowship** will meet at the church to go out to dinner on Monday, January 7 at 4pm.

<u>Attendance:</u>	Early <u>Service</u>	Morning <u>Worship</u>	Sunday <u>School</u>
Dec. 2	26	108	33
Dec. 9	23	115	22
Dec. 16	23	153	
Dec. 23	30	169	
Dec. 30	21	98	29
<u>Stewardship:</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>S.School</u>
Dec. 2	\$7,542.00	\$930.00	\$40.25
Dec. 9	\$2,945.00	\$206.00	\$12.25
Dec. 16	\$4,038.00	\$555.00	\$
Dec. 23	\$3,938.00	\$574.00	\$
Dec. 30	\$4,862.50	\$815.00	\$47.75

## January Birthdays Happy Birthday to All!!!

1st	Lonnie Riddle, Jr.
2nd	Barbara Repenning & Linda Amme
4th	Natalie Wulderk
5th	Jarrold McDonald
8th	Janet Hill & John Irelan
10th	Mary Lou Timberman
11th	Carolyn Wygor, Barbara McGill, Benjamin W. Timberman & Aaron Console
13th	Emily Bucolo
17th	Brody Moore
18th	Jacob Wriggins
19th	Elena K. Wentz
21st	Anna Priggemeier
22nd	Cody Maurer & John Schwartz, III
24th	Andrew Repenning
25th	Rita Greene
26th	Faye Brady
30th	Gabrielle Hennessey, John Timberman, Robin Priggemeier & David Cooke

## Youth Schedule

### MIDLERS: Wednesdays

6:30-7:30pm at the Hangar

**JR HIGH:** 6:30-8:30pm Gym Nights at the Hangar  
Sundays, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

### Saturday, January 19th

Jr/Sr High Sub Sale - \$6 each



Contact Kathy Laury to place your order: 856-358-6019 or  
[kathylaury@comcast.net](mailto:kathylaury@comcast.net)



HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES:  
ASPERGER'S SYNDROME  
(Autism Spectrum Disorder)

Asperger's syndrome is an autism spectrum disorder that is characterized by social impairment, communication difficulties, and repetitive, stereotyped patterns of behavior. It is considered to be the mildest form of autism disorder, but the degree of disability is variable. Some individuals with ASD are severely disabled and require a lot of support for basic activities of daily living.

The social communication deficits in more highly functioning people include lack of the normal back and forth conversation; lack of typical eye contact, body language, facial expression, and trouble maintaining relationships. They have excessive attachment to routines, objects, or interests, stereotyped movements, and repetitive use of objects or phrases. They have difficulty judging personal space, sensitivity to the environment, loud noises, clothing and food textures, and odors.

Although ASD varies in character and severity, it occurs in all ethnic and socio-economic groups and every age group. It might not be recognized before age 5 or 6. Some of these children develop additional psychiatric symptoms and disorders in adolescence and adulthood, such as anxiety or depression.

Males are 4 times more likely than girls to have ASD. Unlike the severe withdrawal from the rest of the world in autism, children with ASD are isolated by poor social skills and narrow interests. They can't understand other's feelings.

Children with ASD are active in early childhood, but have trouble with motor skills such as pedaling a bike, catching a ball, or climbing play equipment. They are awkward and poorly coordinated, with a walk that can appear stilted or bouncy.

The cause of ASD, including Asperger Syndrome, is not known. Research points to brain abnormalities caused by the abnormal migration of embryonic cells during fetal development that affect brain structure and wiring in early childhood and then go on to affect the neural circuits that control thought and behavior. One study found a reduction of brain activity in the frontal lobe of children with ASD when they were asked to respond to tasks that required them to use their judgment. Another study revealed abnormal levels of specific proteins that correlate with obsessive and repetitive behaviors.

There is no cure, and no single best treatment package, but early intervention is best. An effective treatment plan builds on the child's interests, offers a predictable schedule, teaches tasks as a series of simple steps, actively engages the child's attention in highly structured activities and provides regular reinforcement of behavior. This kind of program includes: Social skills training to help the child interact more successfully with other children, cognitive behavioral therapy, that can help the more explosive or anxious children to manage their emotions, and it may be necessary to use medication for co-existing conditions. Occupational therapy can help with sensory integration problems or poor motor coordination. Specialized Speech/language therapy can help with normal conversation, and parent training and support, to teach parents behavioral techniques to use at home.

For more information on neurological disorders funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, contact BRAIN, PO Box 5801, Bethesda, MD, 20824.

"If God be for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy 2013

*Bonnie Kanady, R.N*

**Coming February 17, 18 & 19, 2013!!  
A Time of Renewal!!**

**Dr. Stephen Seamands** currently serves as professor of Christian Doctrine at Asbury. Prior to assuming a teaching position at the seminary in 1983, he pastored United Methodist churches in Linwood, Florence, and Elmer in southern New Jersey for eleven years. Steve is known for gracefully merging the classical and practical. His courses on theology and doctrine are taught with a scholar's mind and a pastor's heart.

The son of missionary parents, Steve grew up in India. He has earned degrees from Asbury College (B.A.), Asbury Theological Seminary (M.Div.), Princeton Theological Seminary (Th.M.), and Drew University (Ph.D.). He is the author of six books including *Christology and Transition in the Theology of Edwin Lewis* (University Press of America, 1987); *Holiness of Heart and Life* (Abingdon Press, 1990), *A Conversation with Jesus* (Victor Books, 1994), *Wounds that Heal: Bringing Our Hurts to the Cross* (InterVarsity Press, 2003), and *Ministry in the Image of God: The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service* (InterVarsity Press, 2005), which received the 2006 Christianity Today "Award of Merit" for books in the area of church and pastoral leadership. His most recent book is *Give Them Christ: Preaching His Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension and Return* (InterVarsity Press, 2012). He has also written articles for various journals and magazines.

In addition to teaching and working with seminary students, Steve is actively engaged in leading seminars and retreats and conducting spiritual renewal events in local churches across the U.S. He also has a deep concern for the spiritual needs of pastors and Christian leaders.

Steve has developed a particular interest in the areas of emotional healing, spiritual warfare, and intercessory prayer. His workshops, "The Healing Power of Forgiveness," and "Overcoming Barriers to Receiving God's Love," which he has presented at scores of churches and conferences, have ministered deeply to the brokenness in people's lives. He is regularly involved in what he describes as "a ministry of healing prayer" to seminary students.

Dr. Seamands and his wife, Carol, are the parents of four adult children, Matthew, Jason, Joseph, and Stephanie, and have eight grandchildren. In his leisure time, he enjoys playing racquetball and golf, as well as listening to various types of music.

***Rev. Steve Seamands will be speaking at Elmer United Methodist Church on February 17, 18, and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Please mark your calendars and plan on sharing this special time of renewal with us.***