

# Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135

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DAVID REPENNING, PASTOR

Date: NOVEMBER 2013



Dear Friends,

HOPE! It is a little word that means a lot and is so hard to understand. We will be using this word throughout the Month of November. Hope is the message for All Saints Day (Nov. 1). It emphasizes the hope we have for an eternal future for those who have died before us. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> our Annual Conference will have a special service for the anniversary of Hurricane Sandy. We as Methodists in New Jersey are participating in the *Future of Hope Project* for mission work including continuing the rebuilding from Hurricane Sandy. We participate with many others to bring hope to many who otherwise may lose all hope for their future.

The Hope continues to build as we celebrate Thanksgiving and the ways God has blessed us as individuals and as a nation. We will also make our financial commitments of giving for 2014. Remember we have opportunities to commit to both the ministries of Elmer UMC and to Outreach Mission programs. Both need our help and both make a difference in the work of Christ's Church. Also remember that our giving is not just money, it is our time, our talents, our presence and our prayers.

As we enter December we begin our Advent services leading up to Christmas. The first week of Advent centers on the word of HOPE. Hope is the belief we have that sustains us in troubled times and helps us look forward to the way God is working to do great things among us. It is a belief in things as they are and as God will remake them. Knowing everything is going to be alright because God is in control.

The center focus of all of this Hope happens with the Billy Graham, "My Hope America" program. It is the sharing of a message of Hope on or about November 7<sup>th</sup>. We have now been preparing for this for over a month. It has been Billy Graham's dream to share one more time the only Hope that can truly change our world, a Hope in Jesus Christ. A number of people in our congregation are planning to open their homes to friends and neighbors to share Billy Graham's message and to briefly witness and share their own faith experience. This message, called, "The Cross" will air on TBS (channel 18 on Comcast) at 8 PM Thursday, November 7. Dr. Graham is sharing the message as he turns 95 years old. It is to remind us that no single man, no great political ideal, no amount of money,

and no special program can change the world for good. Only the power of God in the lives of the people can bring real lasting change. Please join us for this time of new life in Elmer and throughout our world.

As we share this message of Hope, I am preparing for my second knee replacement surgery. I have recognized the need and eagerly anticipated this surgery since June. It is another form of Hope for me, but the most important Hope is the Hope I have for you and our nation empowered by God. I will be away from the church from November 11 to the middle of December. Once again a variety of wonderful lay people will be preaching on the Sundays I am gone. They include John Bucolo, Ed Pitman, and J Gresimer. On December 1<sup>st</sup> Rev. Richard Nichols, our District Superintendent, will preach and serve communion. Rev. John Robbins (609-364-8658) will be available in case of an emergency. I thank them and the many people who work together to serve the Lord and make things happen at Elmer United Methodist Church. Now may the Good News of Jesus Christ give you eternal Hope and lift you to continue to serve Him in awesome ways.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Dave Repenning

For more information on "My Hope" go on line to [www.BillyGraham.org](http://www.BillyGraham.org) or ask Leah Bucolo or me for information. We have much to share with you.

<b>Attendance:</b>	<u>Early Service</u>	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
Oct. 6	15	111	35
Oct. 13	25	105	34
Oct. 20	23	108	48
Oct. 27	24	140	43

  

<b>Stewardship:</b>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>S. School</u>
Oct. 6	\$5,509.00	\$1,328.00	\$22.56
Oct. 13	\$3,440.50	\$511.00	\$20.99
Oct. 20	\$2,961.00	\$711.00	\$54.85
Oct. 27	\$4,751.50	\$452.00	\$32.26

## Community Thanksgiving Service

7:30pm Wednesday, November 27, 2013  
At the Elmer Presbyterian Church



### THANKSGIVING PUMPKIN BREAD SALE

Plain Bread \$6.00

Walnuts & Raisins \$7.00

Benefits the Elmer UMC Music Fund

Please see any Handbell Choir Member to order.

Pick Up Date: Sunday, November 24, 2013

Elmer Diner Receipts Matched since June 2013 have now totaled \$549.26. Please continue to have a meal at Elmer Diner on Wednesdays...turn in your receipt and they will give a percentage to our Youth in Missions!! Thank you



## November Birthdays Happy Birthday to All!!!

1st	Candace Corsey
3rd	Cheryl Baldosaro, Kathy Miller & Braden Moore
4th	Susan Fuller & Michael Slusarz
5th	Robert Timberman, Leslie Moore, Barry Davis & Kellie Macom
7th	Edward Fuller, IV, Sharon Pike, Jeanette McDonald & Glenn Stokes
8th	Susan Bucholski, Connor Batten & Joy Sullivan
10th	Tina Bramell & Robert Boehm
11th	Megan Chapman
13th	Bruce Bishop, Lisa Brown & Annie Wildman
14th	Brianna Hall & Josh Hall
16th	Dave Repenning, Jr., Eleanor Robbins, & Tom Bishop
17th	Hannah Wygor & Alexis Hall
18th	Tim Pitman
19th	Michael Kulig & Karen Snyder
21st	George Vence
22nd	Larry Wriggins, III
23rd	Rich Fackler & Bill Patton
24th	Stan Orzechowski
25th	Sharon Vence & Michele Pfeffer
26th	June Bailey & Lilah Moore
28th	Jared Fox



## Aviation Ministries

Steve and Gail Quigg  
[www.umaviationministries.org](http://www.umaviationministries.org)  
Advance #07994Z

December 3 UMC #GIVINGTUESDAY

One of the 27 ministries that Elmer United Methodist Church supports is through Global Ministries, specifically, Steve and Gail Quigg who serve with Aviation Safety.

Steve Quigg and a team of volunteers, will leave for the Congo in November where they are contributing maintenance, technical, and promotional expertise. Our own T.J. Laury is traveling with the group and filming a documentary on the aviation ministry.

In recent email correspondence Steve asked for prayer, wisdom, safety, stamina and sensitivity to the Spirit. He also wrote, "What makes an airplane fly?" He said that the typical answers are engines, power, lift, and Bernoulli's Principle. The real answer is, of course, money. Aviation is expensive, the investment is huge but then so are the benefits.

On Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, every dollar sent via on-line giving will be matched dollar for dollar. This is the first ever UMC #GIVINGTUESDAY event and is the first time in 34 years of missionary service that they will receive the benefits of such an offer. When you support Steve and Gail's ministry please mention Advance #07994Z. Elmer UMC will get the same mission credit as usual but your mission dollars will automatically double on that day.

They are also working on shipping a container full of

av-gas to the Congo for the Global Ministries aviation program. The fuel is extremely expensive. If all goes well the fuel will be delivered for half of the normal cost therefore all of the money given on December 3<sup>rd</sup> will in essence be quadrupled.

Please continue to pray for Steve, T.J. and the entire team. Also pray for Gail who will remain at home tending to the spiritual and logistical affairs in their local church.

Al-Jo Voeckler  
Missions Committee



## HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES: GRIEF AND GUILT

None of us can make it through life without experiencing loss. Your feelings of loss will likely involve the natural phases of grieving: denial, anger, guilt, physical symptoms, and eventually acceptance. First, we don't want to see that the person is ill, then we become angry at God or the medical profession because we want someone to take the blame. We can feel helpless, exhausted, and empty. It is OK to cry.

In the process of grieving and mourning, we may feel that something from the past could have caused the person's illness, and it is surely our fault. You may feel that you have failed, that you weren't nice enough to that person or you should have told them that you loved them, that you should have known how to help them.

Feelings of guilt are linked with unrealistic thoughts such as: "I must be perfect..." or "I should have done..." To help you work through these feelings, you need to accept guilt as a normal part of loss and grief. "Did I make the best decisions possible with the information I had at the time?" Everyone grieves differently in their own way and in their own time; so be patient with yourself and lean on Jesus. Ask Him to wrap this person in a blanket of love. Look forward to the Resurrection.

Take care of yourself. Give yourself permission to get plenty of sleep, to eat nourishing meals, to exercise, get fresh air and look at the beauty around you. Returning to at least part of your daily routine should help.

Accept things that are beyond your control and turn to God for consolation. Give Him thanks in all things. One day you will find yourself humming a tune; and you will have survived this loss. You may find you have grown as a person, as a friend, and as a Christian.

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*  
Phil. 4:13

*Sonnie Kanady, RN*

## Youth Schedule

### Middlers - WNO

Meet every Wednesday evening  
6:30 - 7:30pm at the Hangar

### Hangar After School Program

#### Sub Sale at the Church

Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>  
Pick-up is from 10:30-11:30am

# Message from Bishop Schol on the One Year Anniversary of Hurricane Sandy

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

One year ago, Superstorm Sandy rolled into New Jersey and the region and changed lives and the landscape forever. Today tens of thousands of homes are still in need of repair with many people still unable to return to their homes.

In the midst of this despair, we have offered hope, *A Future with Hope*. When people hurt, United Methodists help. I take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers, donors, churches and staff who have provided healing and hope for thousands of people. Together, we set a five-year God-sized vision that included:

Repairing 300-500 homes of low income, elderly and disable people.

Providing case management for 500 families.

Recruiting, housing and deploying at least 15,000 volunteers to repair homes.

Repairing churches and parsonages severely damaged by the storm.

Raising \$21 million.

After one year of ministry, I want to update you on our progress.

## **Volunteers**

We are now able to host more than 300 volunteers a week through 12 hosts sites. These host sites provide beds, food and showers. Already more than 5,900 volunteers from 23 states and three countries have logged more than 58,000 hours of relief and repair ministry. Immediately following the storm we fed, clothed and provided day and night shelter to more than 10,000 people.

## **Case Management**

We are presently working with 145 families to create recovery plans. In partnership with UMCOR, we coordinated 9 Disaster Case Management training sessions, training 226 case managers at no cost to 16 organizations including Catholic Charities, American Red Cross, and Salvation Army.

## **Home Repairs**

We are presently working in 14 communities. We have moved 12 families back into their homes, another 15 homes are under construction and 22 homes are being assessed or are ready for construction repairs. We have also repaired one community center.

## **Church Property Repairs**

We provided more than \$900,000 in grants to assist 44 churches with repairs and undertook repairs for two churches.

## **Fundraising**

We have raised in donations and commitments \$9.3 million toward our \$21 million goal. This includes \$3.8 million from UMCOR, \$1.5 million from the American Red Cross, \$750,000 from the Hurricane Sandy NJ Relief Fund (the fund established by Mary Pat Christie, the Governor's wife), \$600,000 from the Robin Hood Foundation and \$500,000 from United Methodist Conferences around the world. Many of the grants were made possible through the *A Future With Hope, Inc.*, the nonprofit corporation started through GNJ that has raise funds and hired staff for this ministry.

Our Mission Fund Campaign, which will raise \$12 million (\$7 million for Sandy Relief, \$2 million for Imagine No Malaria, and \$3 million for local mission) has \$2.5 million in donations and commitments before the campaigns have begun in most of our congregations. Eighty percent of our clergy have made a commitment to the Mission Fund Campaign and better than one-

third of our congregations are in the process of conducting the campaign with their worshippers.

God is doing a miracle in our midst. Our ministry can probably be best summed up by one homeowner who said, "I called 10 different places and then I reached *A Future with Hope*, and it was The United Methodist Church who said we will help." Or the man who shared with us as we moved him back into his home:

Mother and I tried every avenue that was supposed to be available to us to help those hurt by Hurricane Sandy, but were continually denied. In April, we were feeling despair because it rained so often. We even had a stretch of ten straight days of rain. We prayed and asked God just please stop the rain from coming in our home. All we ask Lord is for the roof to get fixed and that would be a great blessing. Then we got a call from Jay, from *A Future with Hope*, who said he'd like to meet us and maybe they could help. At first we thought it was a scam because no one offered us any help before and what he was telling us seemed too good to be true. So we continued to pray on it and the miracle we needed and God answered our prayers as only He can. The Lord sent us His children to help us! We were and are overwhelmed by what God has done for us through our brothers and sisters in Christ. We can't express our gratitude enough to all of the wonderful groups that have come to our home and transformed the devastation we were living in to a warm, comfortable home again. "Ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." (Galatians 5:13)

Thank you for your prayers, thank you for your service, thank you for your commitment, and thank you for your contributions. Together with God we are bringing a *future with hope*. (Jeremiah 29:11)

You can continue to support us by sending volunteers and donations. We need volunteers in the coming months. For more information you may email Lisa Park at [info@afuturewithhope.org](mailto:info@afuturewithhope.org). To learn about how you may contribute financially, please contact me at [BishopJohnSchol@gnjumc.org](mailto:BishopJohnSchol@gnjumc.org).

Keep the faith!  
John Schol, Bishop  
The United Methodist Church  
Greater New Jersey Conference



**Our Ninth Annual Pumpkin' Chunkin'**  
11am to 5pm Sat., Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>  
at Zeck's Farm,

91 Pinyard Rd, Monroeville

**GAMES, FOOD & HAYRIDES!!** We invite you to join us for an afternoon of clean family fun. We have activities for all ages such as a pumpkin seed spitting contest, a skillet tossing event, a scarecrow building contest and more. Food & Drink available for purchase. Our catapult event judges distance and accuracy of launching pumpkins.