

Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135

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DAVID REPENNING, PASTOR

JULY 2014



Greetings,

Hope this summer you are all able to find time to sit back, relax a little, and reflect on life and the ways God is blessing you. As I reflect I realize at the end of July it will be 30 years since I entered pastoral ministry. Since then, much has changed with me and the ways I do ministry. My relationship with God has also grown. Most recently I have not seen big changes as much as I have experienced clarification and affirmation of the ministry I am doing and the beliefs I hold. This affirmation and clarification is shaped through events in the Church, my personal life, studies and especially your questions and interaction with me. Two of the most important principles for me are the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the unity of His Body.

Grace is the way God reaches out to forgive and bless us even though we haven't earned it and don't deserve it. Often we are asked to do things that seem out of the norm or have no clear cut answer as to how we should respond. In times like these I ask myself, "How will my action or decision demonstrate God's loving Grace? What is the Grace-Full way to respond?"

This year especially has been full of events in my own life and in the Church which have challenged the grace giving model. Sometimes it just doesn't seem right to act with grace. Often it goes against our human feelings and ways of doing things. Justice, revenge and retribution seem like more appropriate ways to act that will satisfy our anger and worldly sense of what is right.

During Lent we studied Rick Warren's "40 Days of Community." I hope you were able to participate in a group. Looking at that study and then reflecting on the Holy Week story of Jesus' death on the cross, we must remember Jesus' words, "My grace is sufficient." We are also challenged to remember before he died Jesus prayed for the unity of all believers.

Now I know some people don't like the ways I handle things. At times I am criticized for being much too lenient. We are also challenged by the covenant we made when we joined the Church; A covenant to live together as a community of believers. At times this can be even more challenging than living with grace.

If we are to be authentic in our life as a community we will disagree, we will at times sacrifice our own desires, and we will have to work hard to remain an inclusive

group. This is part of our covenant relationships in our baptism as followers of Christ.

The opposite of this would be to expect everyone to conform and agree on every issue that comes before us. We would believe the same way, act the same and attempt to even look the same. Ultimately we would not be true to who we are and we would choose an attitude of non-involvement. The non-involved person tends to sit outside of the group at meetings, you are never quite sure what he believes, his attendance is spotty, and he rarely makes commitments to participate. The times I catch myself becoming non-involved are when I have little say in decision making, or when I am hit with a dogmatic statement about what the truth is or what is the only way one can respond to a problem.

Yes, it is a struggle to be authentically involved in a community, but there is great joy when you realize you are in a community in which you can truly be yourself and participate with others who are authentically themselves. The benefits outweigh the risks. I thank the many of you who have chosen to continue in our work to be the body of Christ. Have a blessed summer and may we remain faithful to our Lord and to one another.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dave Repenning



July Birthdays Happy Birthday to All!!!

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| 1st | Addison & Alexa Shimp |
| 2nd | Jenette Wildman |
| 3rd | Linda Thomas, Donna Stemberger & Eva Irelan |
| 4th | Trina Richards |
| 5th | Dan Bryan |
| 6th | Kara Stemberger & Kimberly Chapman |
| 7th | Julia Garrison & Diana Donovan |
| 8th | Andrew Clemick |
| 9th | Mary Lou Newkirk & Susan Steier |
| 10th | Joey Bucolo, Anthony Barthetaletti & Red Horner |
| 14th | Zachary Schneider & Joan Harz |
| 15th | Georgeann Batten |
| 16th | Annette Evans |
| 17th | Pastor Dave Repenning, Keith Elliott,
Paula Fackler & Nicole Stemberger |
| 18th | John Hathaway, Danielle Montana
& Allison Wildman |
| 19th | Dylan Hall & Brennan Richmond |
| 20th | Julia Brown |
| 21st | Cloe Elliott, Matthew Cooper, Sara Rodriguez
& Tom Parish |
| 25th | Ethan Adams |
| 26th | Aylani Eberl & Emma Pike |
| 27th | Lee Lacy & Nichole Hall |
| 28th | Jessica Filippoli |
| 31st | Grace Hennessey & Karen Wolfe |

30th Pastoral Anniversary "Tea"

Pastor Dave has been in pastoral ministry for 30 years!! Please join us for a "Tea" at the parsonage on Sunday, July 27th at 12:30pm as we celebrate with him.

If you would like to help with the Tea please see Mary Lou Timberman - 358-2153.



Len & Betsy Phillips World Gospel Mission and The Mission Society

Len and Betsy Phillips in their most recent newsletter expressed their gratefulness for the support they have received from Elmer UMC. Over 20 years ago they left the United States to pursue a career in missionary services. Since those early days of language study in Costa Rica, the Lord has taken them to Argentina, Honduras and Bolivia. In partnership with Elmer UMC they have had the privilege of investing in the lives of countless young people through the teaching and training of those studying to be pastors, discipling and mentoring youth of all ages, and ministering alongside local pastors in church ministries.

Through it all they have depended on you to stand with them through your prayers, gifts, and encouragement, and partner with them to build up the body of Christ in Latin America, and most recently through work in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. In this time of Homeland Ministry they have sensed that this is a season which they should remain in the United States for family education and health reasons. But, God has not released them from the call to missions; instead, He has opened an exciting new opportunity.

They have served under a dual appointment with World Gospel Mission and The Mission Society from the very beginning. That will continue. For their coming four-year term of missionary service they will work directly with The Global Resource Team of The Mission Society. The Global Resource Team consists of those offering specialized assistance to mission endeavors globally with available resources in both theological education and international Christian school education. Their goal is to help equip, empower, and encourage those on the field who are serving in these areas and offer short-term assistance to meet local needs.

For those who wish to keep in touch with Len and Betsy Phillips, their address is PO Box 341, Monroe, Georgia. Their email address is len.phillips@wgm.org.

Submitted by Al-Jo Voeckler
Missions Treasurer

ELMER UMC 2014 VBS



"Son Treasure Island"

6:00 - 8:30pm

July 7th thru the 11th

Ages 3 thru 6th Grade

...and a new youth class!

Snacks, crafts, games, friends...

Register Early! And bring a friend!

You may register online on our website:

www.elmerumc.org.

Supplies for Vacation Bible School Crafts

We are in need of the following items for VBS Crafts. Donations would be greatly appreciated. Please leave the items in the back of the sanctuary in the box marked for VBS. If you have any questions please see Linda Thomas. Thank you so much for your generosity!!

Brown Craft Foam	Curling Ribbon
Clean Baby Food Jars	Angel Stickers
Small die cut stars	4 inch Styrofoam balls
Yellow paper napkins	Double Stick Tape
Tan card Stock	Poster Board
Brown Card Stock	Gold Rickrack
Acrylic Gems	Vellum
Glitter pens	7.5cm dowels
18cm dowels	Small empty water bottles
Colorful duct tape	¾-inch steel washers
Leather-like cording	2 yarn
Dried beans	Red or orange felt
Tiny seashells	Colored aquarium gravel
Disposable foil cake pans rectangle	
Wide Tip and Fine Tip Black Permanent Markers	
Round headed wooden clothespins (Non spring type)	
Solid Color Gift Bags 5 1/2 X 8 1/2	
Peel and Stick Geometric Foam Stickers	
Card Stock Various colors including yellow	
5inch diameter terra cotta pots	

WACKY WEDNESDAYS

Family Fun each Wednesday

July 16th - August 20th.

July 16th - Canoeing with Pastor Dave

Meet at Parvin State Park boat ramp any time between 5 and 7:30pm. Call Pastor Dave for details. 856-503-5477.



July 23rd - Campfire with Tim Hack

Contemporary folk singer for kids
7pm at the church

For more info please call Leah Bucolo (609-247-8828)

July 30th - Family Movie Night and Pizza

6:30pm at the church.



See the movie "Frozen" and help us rate the pizza as we try the various local pizzerias.

For more info please call Leah Bucolo (609-247-8828)

August 6th - Take Me Out to the Ball Game



Wilmington Blue Rocks vs. Myrtle Beach
Leaving church at 5:30pm. See Pastor Dave for tickets by July 20th. Tickets are \$8.00

August 13th - Bicycling Traveling Supper

Beginning at the Hangar at 6pm.

For more info please call Donna Stemberger (358-2509)

August 20th - Swimming, Hot Dog



& Sundae Buffet



6:30pm at the Stembergers,
20 Fourth St, Elmer

Any questions, please contact Donna Stemberger dkstembug@yahoo.com or 358-2509

July Sub Sale \$6 ea.

Benefits the Lakeside Home

Saturday, July 19th - Please place your order form in basket in the back of the church, or contact Donna Stemberger, 358-2509 or dkstembug@yahoo.com.

Elmer United Methodist Church
21 South Main Street, Elmer, NJ

Feed My Sheep Benefit
Spaghetti Dinner
and Baked Goods Auction

This will be a Spaghetti Dinner with Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread and Beverage. After dinner there will be a Baked Goods Auction conducted by Richard Felmev who was an auctioneer for about 10 years. Proceeds will go to Feed My Sheep Ministry, Inc.

You MUST sign up or R.S.V.P. - Leah: leahbucolo@yahoo.com or 609-247-8828 to make your reservation to ensure enough food.

DATE: Monday, July 14, 2014

TIME: 5:30 p.m.



<u>Attendance:</u>	Early Service	Morning Worship	S. School
June 1	27		
June 8	30	110	
June 15	29	151	
June 22	27	74	20
<u>Stewardship:</u>	Church	Missions	S.School
June 1	\$4,775.00	\$919.00	
June 8	\$6,795.00	\$1,175.00	
June 15	\$3,328.70	\$493.00	
June 22	\$3,379.37	\$341.00	\$17.75