

October
2011

The Good News



SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 71 Sparta Ave., Sparta, NJ 07871



“JUST SAYYES”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is the time of year when I meet with the Lay Leadership and Nominations Committee to try to find the best leaders for ministry in the church. We use the Time and Talent forms many of you have filled out. We also try to gage where people’s spiritual gifts and passions are so that, if possible, we are all doing what interests us most. Of course we have to take people’s time, health and other commitments into consideration in seeking out church members to serve in different capacities.

Being a “minister” in the life of the church should be satisfying rather than something that produces burnout. The problem, of course, is that in many churches 80% do most of the work required. This means some ministries cannot take place or cannot be as strong or effective as they might be. It also means some things either fall back into the pastor’s lap (often taking away from preaching and pastoral care) or have to be let go altogether.

As the saying goes, “many hands make light work”. Everyone contributing something, great or small, is what makes this and every church dynamic. The smallest thing can make a big difference.

Take, for instance, the coffee hour fellowship. The people who bring food, prepare and then clean up on Sunday mornings are usually people who are already leading committees or are serving in a ministry somewhere. It simply isn’t fair for us to fall back on the same people to also provide for coffee fellowship on a regular basis.

So please volunteer to help with the ministry life of your church, even if it’s just assisting with coffee fellowship a few times a year. If you can’t commit to something long term, consider short term programs and ministries that need leadership like the stewardship campaign, helping in the nursery, an outing with the youth or assisting with the new church directory.

A church cannot be vital without committed, involved lay leadership. I ask you to weigh the demands on your time and energy, and to serve in a way that is best for you. Then when we call, say “yes” if you possibly can.

Grace and Peace,

Upcoming Worship Events

October 2nd — World Communion Sunday. The Rev. Dr. Alden Welch will be preaching.

October 9th — Children’s Sabbath Sunday & Teacher Dedication, see more information on the UMW page 5

October 16th—Laity Sunday

October 23rd—Presentation of Bibles to 3rd graders

October 30th—Youth Mission Trip presentation lunch after worship; children wear “tasteful costumes”

October 30th—All Saints celebration in worship, you are invited to bring pictures of loved ones now deceased for our “Cloud of Witnesses” in worship

Application for Scholarship from
Sparta United Methodist Women, Sparta UMC

insert

Church and Society Study On Homosexuality Continues on Thursdays

It's not too late to join in. The study is called, "Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality: Moving from Tradition to Affirmation." Identical sessions are held on Thursday mornings at 10am and on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. The study is being led by Matt Querns who presents both views. Plenty of time for conversation and questions. Pick a time or move back and forth between the two times depending on your schedule. If you have questions, call Matthew at 520-904-1404.



MOUSE THRIFT SHOP NEWS



Thank you UMC Members!

Thank you to our church members who volunteered time at the Church Mouse Thrift Shop during our summer Thursday evening openings. You sacrificed dinner hours, crowded schedules, family time, vacations, practices and games, and squeezed us into your busy lives to help us.

In the three months that we were open 4-7pm Thursday evenings, we earned \$2,308.87!! That's an average of \$177.61 each evening!! **ALL** of this money is being donated exclusively to the church's parsonage renovations. Give yourselves a hand! We could not have accomplished this without our church family stepping forward to help. Please continue to volunteer!

Additional bonuses from volunteering include: catching up with church families, meeting new acquaintances, developing new friendships, witnessing for the church, AND realizing all the wonderful bargains right under our noses! Come again to visit and to shop! Our bargains are spectacular!



YOUTH NEWS! by Matthew Querns

Greetings everyone! Our programming season has begun. The high school youth have returned from the shore, and the junior high youth are getting ready to feed the hungry of Newton. As we do this, I notice a chill in the air! I love the fall. Soon, the colors of the leaves will join the chill, and then Christmas will be on its way. Until then, we will move into full swing. Youth Group at Sparta UMC is open to anyone 4th grade through 12th grade. If you are interested or know anyone interested, please contact me at the church. We have many activities for youth of all ages this month.

I hope you all will join us!

4th/5th Grade Youth

October 30th—CROP walk for World Hunger: meet at church 1:00, walk from 1:30-3:30; food will be provided.

Junior High Youth

October 23—Halloween Movie/Pizza Night: 5:00-7:00 at Newton UMC, bring a snack to share

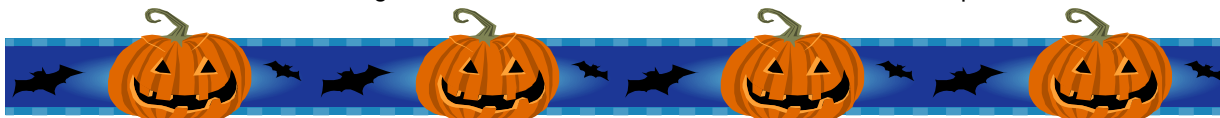
October 30th—CROP walk for World Hunger: meet at church 1:00, walk from 1:30-3:30; food will be provided.

Senior High Youth

October 23—Halloween Movie/Pizza Night: 5:00-7:00 at Newton UMC, bring a snack to share

October 30th—Mission Trip presentation luncheon: after 10:30 am worship

October 30th—CROP walk for World Hunger: meet at church 1:00, walk from 1:30-3:30; food will be provided.



Happy Halloween

To our Sunday School Children: Wear your Costumes to Sunday School & Church Mission Team Report & Luncheon

On Sunday, October 30th, Pastor Diane invites our Sunday School students to wear their Halloween costumes to Church! ALL are welcome to stay for a spaghetti lunch served by the youth and to hear a report about their summer trip to the Heifer Farm.

Please, no costumes that are inappropriate or gory!



PUTTING FAITH INTO ACTION

Opportunities from the Church & Society Committee

The Church and Society Committee of Sparta United Methodist Church is connected to both the Conference and General Boards of Church and Society. It is the job of Church and Society at all these levels in the United Methodist Church to work on issues of social justice within the society.

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM; AN ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY ON SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER AT SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Don't miss this unique, enlightening program. On October 9th, 16th, and 23rd, the adult education class will be led by Dr. M. Ali Chaudry, Co-founder and President of the Center for Understanding Islam. All are welcome and encouraged to attend at 9:15 a.m. in room 8, immediately following the 8:30 a.m. worship service. Among the topics for discussion are the following: the spirit of Islam, the status and role of women in Islam, Jihad, and the challenges faced by American Muslims in a post-9/11 United States. Consider taking advantage of this opportunity to grow in interfaith understanding.

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ELIMINATION OF POVERTY A CONFERENCE ON CHANGING THE WORLD'S PRIORITIES FROM WAR TO PEACE

Sunday, October 30, 2011

From 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

**Hosted by: The Islamic Center of Morris County
1 Mannino Drive, Rockaway, N.J. 07866**



Every day 40,000 people, including 26,000 children, die from poverty-related causes and pollution while the nations of the world spend over \$1.6 trillion annually on their military budgets. Here in the United States poverty and suffering are on the rise. The conference will show how the U.S. and other developed nations have the resources to eradicate the causes of poverty once and for all, by redirecting their priorities from war to peace. Please join our peace conference to explore ways to end the poverty and suffering and develop organizing and action plans in which every concerned individual can participate in.

If you are not participating in the CROP walk this day, please consider attending. The conference is sponsored by several faith-based and secular organizations, including the Interfaith Peace and Justice Coalition and the Church and Society Committee of our church. Contact Litsa Binder litsa@embarqmail.com if you are interested in carpooling from Sparta.



The Greater NJ Annual Conference Multi Cultural Celebration

October 22 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

The Multi Ethnic Coordinating Committee of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference is inviting everyone to the annual multi cultural celebration on October 22, 2011 Saturday (from 4PM to 7PM) at the St. John's United Methodist Church, 2000 Florence Avenue, Hazlet, New Jersey. The purpose of this annual celebration is to celebrate our diverse cultural heritage and gather together for worship, fellowship and cultural festivity.

“Celebrating Who We Are”

For more information go to: <http://www.gnjumc.org/639/>

R.S.V.P. to Pastor Diane

United Methodist Women Go in Many Directions



Come Join Us!

Children's' Sabbath & Teacher Dedication With Collection of School Supplies for UMCOR

October 9th

You will want to be in church on this day. Young people will be ushering, singing and participating in the service. We will all focus on the joys and responsibilities we share when it comes to children. This service was planned by members of United Methodist Women.

Ingredients for School Supply Kits will also be collected starting that day and continuing until November 6. Please remember to bring the exact item asked for. You can bring the ingredients for an entire kit or just a few of the items. Here's the list:

- | | |
|--|---|
| pair of blunt scissors | pads of paper (spiral or top bound) |
| pack of loose leaf paper (150 sheets only) | hand held pencil sharpener (at least 1" long) |
| 12 inch ruler | 6 unsharpened pencils |
| 2 1/2 inch eraser | 24 count box of crayons |

UMW Healing Prayer Group



Meets Next on October 5th

There is a Ute prayer that starts: "Earth teach me stillness..." . That's a little of what we do in the Healing Prayer Group each month. It's a small group that lifts up the names of those people and situations we know that need prayer---and then we have some stillness.

Join us on October 5th from 11:15 to 11:45 am.



October Starts with UMW Writing Group

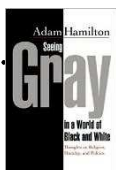
On October 1 at 10am the UMW Writing Group will gather to read what they've written and to hear what others have written. It's a small, supportive group. Call Ann Freeman Price (973-383-5014) for information.



Prayer of
Abraham Lincoln



God, give us faith that right makes
might.



UMW BOOK WORMS MEET ON OCTOBER 17

THE BOOK STUDY GROUP OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN HAVE NAMED THEMSELVES THE "UMW BOOK WORMS." THEY WILL MEET NEXT ON OCTOBER 17TH AT 10AM AND WILL BE DISCUSSING THE BOOK, SEEING GRAY IN A WORLD OF BLACK AND WHITE BY ADAM HAMILTON.

THE GROUP HAS DISCOVERED OVER THE TWO AND A HALF YEARS THAT IT HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE READ THE BOOK TO BE ABLE TO JUMP INTO THE DISCUSSION. SO BE SURE TO COME--

THE NOVEMBER 14TH BOOK WILL BE LITTLE BEE BY CHRIS CLEAVE.

There is a Better Way

By Wayne Lavender -from Church & Society

Virginia Beach, VA - Human history has been written in blood and tears. The terrorist attack on September 11, 2001 was simply one more act in a long running play: they kill us. We kill them. Repeat. This is the eternally contemporary drama of human interaction since the time of Cain and Abel.

It is said that one definition for insanity is doing the same activity over and over again but each time expecting different results. However, this we know: the death and destruction caused by war creates a vicious circle that leads to ever increasing levels of violence.

But there is another way: the pathway of peace with justice – where cooperation and collaboration replace competition and conflict. This has been the road less taken. But it is the road we must choose now because continuing to do what we have done in the past – complemented by technological advances in humanity's ability to kill – will lead towards a dark and destructive future.

What is the opposite of a terrorist? No, this is not a joke. It is actually a question I posed to my congregation in the weeks following the attacks of 9-11. I've come to the conclusion that the opposite of a terrorist must be a builder. A terrorist, after all, destroys, demolishes and devastates. A builder, on the other hand, innovates, creates and constructs.

A terrorist creates fear: a builder produces hope.

The most effective way to confront terrorism is to build a world of peace with justice. Peace begins when hunger ends. Peace begins when people have access to decent housing, education, access to health care and gainful employment. Peace endures when justice prevails – thus mitigating the anger and despair that often leads to violence.

When I think about what a just world looks like, I consider the next generation, youth and children. An estimated 10 million children die yearly from the effects of extreme poverty; this is an average of 26,000 children per day. In the decade since the attacks of 9/11 approximately 100 million children have died as the result of extreme poverty. This, in fact, is the silent and scandalous terrorism of our day. Distracted by other concerns, persons of faith have neglected the cries of these children.

A recent UN report indicates that there are as many as 200 million orphans alive today – mostly concentrated in the poorer nations of the global south. Alone in the world these children often have no one to love, care and raise them. They contribute more to the death total of children than any other demographic.

How can we address this crisis? Some answers come from our faith traditions. The Abrahamic religions share together a belief in monotheism. We also share multiple references within our sacred texts to care for The Orphan. For instance, in the Hebrew Bible (and Christian Old Testament) we read “do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, “ (Deuteronomy 24:17) and in the Quran “and they give food, in spite of their love for it (or for the love of Him), to the poor, the orphan, and the captive” (76:8). Sadly, we also share in the ability to widely ignore these admonitions.

In my experience, I have learned this: interfaith dialogue is important, but talking is only a starting point. Interfaith work is better. Interfaith work builds relationships, creates networks, fosters trust, breaks down stereotypes and constructs a space for understanding and peace. In the few months since I established the Foundation 4 Orphans (F4O), an inter-faith, international Non-Governmental Organization dedicated to supporting the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of the Orphan, I have been blessed in my work by Jews, Muslims and Christians. I received the first gift for F4O from a Muslim friend and had my first speaking engagement in a synagogue. I have Jewish, Christian and Muslim board members. We have come together as brothers and sisters to accomplish three things: build a world of peace and justice, fulfill our mandated obligations and change the operating paradigm of human history.

We can continue to practice what many Jews, Christians and Muslims have practiced for thousands of years: if you strike me, I will strike you back. This is the eternally contemporary cycle of violence. It is the response the US made following the attack of 9-11. But what has all this war accomplished?

There is a better way. We have the ability and option to forge a new path – a pathway leading towards peace and justice where the obligations to love our neighbor and care for the needy are taken seriously. This is the better way. The decision of which pathway to choose is ours. Let us make this decision wisely.

* The Rev. Wayne Lavender, Ph.D., is a United Methodist pastor and the director of the Foundation 4 Orphans.



Square Dance and

Pizza on October 29th



Be sure you're present for the square dance and pizza at 5:30pm on October 29th. Pizza plus salad will be served at 5:30, the dancing begins at 6:30. Cat, the caller, will walk you through each dance, so there is no need to be an expert---just a willingness to have some fun.

Mark the flyer you'll find in the bulletin so Eleanor Shumaker knows how many pizzas to order. Then show up with your dancin' shoes on!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !



Sally
Todd
Linda

Yellinski
Drew
Refsland

October 2
October 3
October 21



If you would like to included your birthday in our monthly newsletter, give the office a call at (973)729-7773, or e mail them to Linda@spartaumc.org

DISTRICT RESCOURSE DAY

Monday, October 24th

at the Rockaway UMC

1 Hoagland Avenue, Rockaway, NJ

PRESENTER: Dr. H. Dean Trulear,
Professor at Howard University School of
Divinity

TOPIC: Prophetic Preaching and Ministries

CLERGY SESSION: 9:00AM—3:00 PM

LAITY SESSION: 7:00 PM—9:00 PM

RSVP to church office by October 14, 2011.

Laity are welcome at the clergy session
with RSVP

Some "Little" Books From The Church Library



I (Ann Freeman Price) have kept track of the books I've read since 1993. One year I was concerned that I hadn't read enough books that year and so I went to the library and intentionally looked for "little" books---small in size, quick to read. I know that's cheating but the amazing thing is that I've found some real treasures in looking at little books.

This month in the narthex bookcase I've put some "Little" books for you to enjoy.

The Art of Possibility---Transforming professional and personal life by Rosamond Stone Zander and Benjamin Zander.

This has been highlighted before but it is the best little book I have ever read and worth reading again and again.

Henri Nouwen---In My Own Words compiled by Robert Durback. This is a book which gives some wonderful quotes of Nouwen from his many books. This is a gem.

Caring & Commitment---Learning to live the love we promise by Lewis B. Smedes. This one is about relationships and covenants we make with each other.

Good Morning, Lord---Devotions for Women by Evelyn Anderson. The title says what it is and it's just right for morning---short, to the point, with inspiration tucked in.

The Power of Praying Together---Where two or more are gathered by Stormie Omartian with Jack Hayford. If you don't check this one out, I will---talks about the power of prayer for one, with a partner, with a group and the power of a praying church.

Ministry In An Oral Culture---living with Will Rogers, Uncle Remus, & Minnie Pearl by Tex Sample. Tex Sample is one of the best storytellers I know and was in several of the sessions of the videos "Living the Questions." by Colleen Zuck and Elaine Meyer.

Giant Steps---Small Changes to Make a Big Difference---365 Daily Lessons in Self-Mastery by Anthony Robbins. I'm not sure you should check this out for the entire 365 days---but you could keep it a while and see if it makes a difference.

When you take out a book, be sure to sign a sign-out sheet so we know where the books are.



Prayers for the World On September 11th

In worship on September 11th, those present were asked to write their hopes and prayers for the world on a ribbon. During the service these ribbons were collected and made into a ribbon tapestry (similar to one that was created at Ground Zero on that same day). The Sparta tapestry is currently in the narthex, available for additional ribbons and also to be read.

Here are some of the prayers and hopes: Some were single words: Tolerance. Peace. Forgiveness. Remember. Freedom. Some were phrases: No war. No more hunger in the whole world. We pray for hatred to become the common enemy. Help the people who lost a loved one. Wisdom---knowledge---health. May God look down on this insane world and reach the hearts of men of peace. Help animals. I pray that one day, everyone will respect one another and there will be no wars. My hope is for a clean earth. May an act of violence towards us never again be answered with violence and retribution on our part but rather with love and peace.

World Mission Shop Getting Ready for Some Changes

For one thing leadership is shifting from Nancy VanderVeen to Ann Freeman Price. We send baskets and baskets of thanks to Nancy for starting this shop ten plus years ago. Now her job at Drew University is swallowing enormous amounts of her time so the baton is passing to Ann and a team of people who have pledged to help her.

Watch for changes---but in the meantime come down and shop!



UMCOR/ERT TRAINING

Date: Saturday, October 29th 9am-5pm

Location: Hackettstown Trinity UMC

213 Main St. Hackettstown

The mission of an **Early Response Team** is to provide a caring presence in the aftermath of a disaster, under very specific guidelines that enable a team to be productive and caring while causing no further harm or being a burden to the affected community. Classes are taught by “authorized” UMCOR trainers, and team members are given ID badges as evidence of training, after background checks. Topics covered in the class include the who, what, when, where and how of doing ministry, as well as hands-on experience in specific tasks that early responders are expected to accomplish.

To sign up or have any questions please contact Laura Kempson at (973)534-3232. The deadline for registration is October 20th and registration is limited so please let Laura know as soon as possible. The mission committee will be offering \$10 off the fee of \$25 to anyone who is interested in going to ERT training.



Please attend the 2011 Sparta United Methodist Church Conference

On Wednesday, October 19th beginning at 7:45 all church members are welcome to attend a service led by our new Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Steven G. Bechtold – he will bring news from the Bishop & Conference staff. We will review all our ministries at this event, approve the Trustees’ report, vote on the pastor’s compensation, approve the audit and vote to support Matthew Querns continuance in ministry and many other things.



SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

71 Sparta Avenue
Sparta, NJ 07871

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Fax: 973-729-8703

We're on the web!

www.spartaumc.org

Please note our FALL HOURS:

THRIFT SHOP HOURS

Wednesday 10:00—2:00

Thursday 1:00-4:00

Friday 1:00—4:00

Saturday 10:00—2:00



World Mission Shop Hours

Thursday 1:00 to 4:00

Friday 1:00 to 4:00

Saturday 10:00 to 2:00

Come browse gifts from our Fair Trade Shop



The Good News

You can reach Ann Freeman Price, co-editor at 973-383-5014 or at annfreemanprice@embarqmail.com or Linda Kristiansen, co-editor at the church office (973)729-7773 or at linda@spartaumc.org

The next Newsletter will be compiled for November

The DEADLINE for all articles is:

October 15th

SERVICES

Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am

followed by fellowship

In Demarest Hall

Nursery care is available

ALL ARE WELCOME



SUNDAY SCHOOL
has begun, all are invited!
9:15 am Sunday morning

COME JOIN THE FUN