



*The United Methodist Church of Red Bank
247 Broad Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701*

THE OUTLOOK

“A Church with open doors, empowered by God’s love to be a Christ-like community, reaching out in ministry and service.”

February 2012

“It is an awesome thing to see the works of God’s hand”

Even in winter I am often struck by the pure beauty of creation. In that beauty I am reminded of the awesome love of the God who has called us to be God’s people.

I am also reminded now and again of the awesome nature of God when I look at the people of God who come together to be the church. Sure, many times we look at the church and shake our heads, wondering how God can think this is the way that the good news of Jesus Christ is to be proclaimed in the world. Sure, the church is not perfect and there are many things that need to be improved. Every now and again we are privileged to see how God has called the church together, and what a wondrous creation we, the church really are!

It is an awesome thing to see the works of God in our midst! We are blessed and privileged to come together as the people of The United Methodist Church of Red Bank. I continue to be overwhelmed by the willingness of the members of this church to truly struggle with what it means to be the church. There are many ways in which that willingness is demonstrated here every day.

Our *Book of Discipline* says that the purpose of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Look around at the people of God who make up this local church. There are many amazing things taking place! Witness the many who proclaim their service to our Christian Education program. Witness the many who come forward to serve on committees and other activities in the church. God is truly at work in our midst in many ways!

During this season - when Lent begins shortly - may we find signs and reminders of how alive the church is. Look around you and discover the awesome love of God in our midst. And then find ways in which you can participate in this beautiful tapestry of God’s hand – the church!

Peace,

Myrna



Dear Friends:

There are a multitude of things that make our church wonderful, vibrant, beautiful. It is a great place to praise God and to be nurtured in the faith.

One of the most important dimensions of our worship space is the flowers and plants that beautify our altars every Sunday. You will have noticed that we have been trying hard to keep a balance between cut arranged flowers with their many colors, and the vigor of potted plants that show green even in the middle of winter. It reminds us of the wide diversity of God's creation.

This letter comes to provide the opportunity for you to contribute to the beautification of our church. Please consider making a donation to purchase flowers. You may designate that you are placing flowers in memory, honor, or thanksgiving of an individual or organization as you choose. Floral arrangements are available for \$35 each and you may subscribe for one or two arrangements as you see fit. Your name and the purpose of your donation will be listed in each Sunday's *InLook*. You can also specify a specific Sunday (for an anniversary, birthday or whatever) on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that we will only purchase flowers on Sundays that are subscribed; other Sundays provide the opportunity to show off our potted plants.

Orders should be submitted to Sheila at your convenience anytime during the year. Please note that we will do a separate mailing for Easter flowers when the time is nearer - this letter is for on-going flower dedications.

Fill out the form below and return with your check in the appropriate amount.

I/we would like to give a gift of \$ _____ (at \$35 per arrangement)

In honor of:

In memory of:

In celebration of:

Given by:

Attached is a check for \$ _____

Outreach....Janie Schildge

Advent Options raised \$2,185 for alternative gifts, including: \$670 - Heifer Project animals, \$630 for Church World Service Blankets and Tools of Hope, \$352 for Wings of the Morning, \$225 for Lunch Break, and \$302 for Parker Family Clinic. Your Outreach committee voted to give \$1,000 toward the \$1,500 pledged at Annual Conference in June. This will go towards the purchase of a Medical Mission plane in the Congo for transport of patients to needed care (the roads in most of the country are not passable. We will still need another \$150 to complete our pledge, if you would like to help. This is an Advance Special program of our UMC and donations can be made to our UMC to go to conference. Thanks for helping us with this project...WINGS OF THE MORNING!

February is a time of Valentines, and what better way to show love than to put together a Gift of the Heart - a Health Kit. Items needed are: Hand towels, wash cloths, sturdy combs, metal nail files or clippers, toothbrush in original wrap, and band aids (1"x3"). When you are shopping please remember these basic health needs, and bring into church (basket in back hall) so we can assemble kits to deliver to CWS warehouse for quick response to a winter disaster. THANKS for CARING!

The "Servant or Sucker" Series on Sundays and Wednesdays has been well received, and the discussion lively. Thank you Bobbie Ridgely, for moderating this series. As a follow up challenge to help understand why some people are homeless in these unstable economic times, Outreach would like to invite you to participate in a simulation of SNAP - (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) We encourage you to try living on a food stamp budget of \$32 per person per week for one week (or 6 weeks of Lent or any number in between). For one person, the amount of money allowed (6 weeks) would be \$192; for a family of four \$768 for 6 weeks. You can sign up on our poster in Fellowship Hall for this LENTEN CHALLENGE. Call Pastor Myrna or Janie for any questions.

Did you know that our Outreach Treasurer, Dr. Alvin Foster, belongs to the same fraternity as Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr. (Alpha Phi Alpha)? Al was recognized at the annual YMCA MLKing breakfast on Jan. 16th. Thank you Al, for your continued service in our church and community.

We are collecting items for Health Kits to be assembled in February for disaster relief. You will find lists of items needed for these very useful quick response bags of basic hygiene items. Thanks from Outreach!

United Methodist Women (UMW)...Linda Babler



UMW General Meeting in February – We will be meeting in February on the 2nd at 12:30 pm in room 114. Bring your lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided. The meeting will consist of officer installation and our topic for this meeting is "Partnering with Others in Mission". Hope to see all of you.



Ash Wednesday Service will be on February 22nd at 12 noon in Squire Chapel. A Sacrificial Luncheon will be served in room 114 immediately following the service. If you would like to help make the soup on February 21 at 9:30 am let Linda Babler know.

We need quart jars for the leftover soup from the luncheon. Jars should be labeled "UMW" and left in the reception office.

Book Club Meets every 4th Tuesday of the Month - The next meeting will be February 28th at 7:15 pm in the Library. Our book for February will be "A Dog's Purpose" by W. Bruce Cameron.

March 10th – A Day Apart will be held at the Oakhurst UMC from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm. This

event is sponsored by the Northern Shore District UMW. It is a day of spiritual renewal. Linda and Bob Scott will be our leaders for the day. Watch for registration forms to come out. Bring your lunch and join other ladies from the District.



UMW Red Bank Unit 2011 Emphasis: As in last year the need is still great. Our Mission Emphasis is to feed the hungry. To this end we have 6 team leaders that have been coordinating and providing a cold breakfast for the clients of Lunch Break for two years now. In 2011 we provided food totaling almost \$1,000. We will be looking for some volunteers to help with this endeavor for the upcoming months of **February 4th**, April, June, August, October and December. It may not seem like much, but it really helps Lunch Break. UMW provides the food and the volunteers to serve on the first Saturday of the months listed above. Any leftover food stays with Lunch Break to help with providing breakfast on the next Monday. If you can help, see Linda Babler or Cyndi Skove. We still need volunteers for February 4th.



Susanna Circle will be meeting on February 7th. If you think you might like to join us – just come on out. We will be meeting at Linda's home (387 Oak Hill Rd, in Middletown) at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome!

Red Bank UMW has a growing **Prayer Shawl ministry** here at the church. We dedicated prayer shawls on December 11th at the 10:30 service. We hope to dedicate more shawls on Mother's Day. We have had some volunteers, if you can sew, knit or crochet you are needed. If you would like to be part of this ministry contact Linda Babler.

Health Kits will be a mission project sponsored by Outreach during the month of February, we hope you all will participate in this very important project

Reminder: Mission Team Meeting on February 27th, 1pm in room 107

Campbell Soup Labels - Did you know that UMW collects Campbell Soup Labels and others? See the notice on the UMW main bulletin board in the hall as to which labels we collect. All we need is the PC code with the picture of the little boy on of the label. Or, if you would like give us the entire label. There is a shoe box in the reception office for the labels. We collect these all year, save them for us, they help the Red Bird Mission.

Sunday School...Greg Jansky

Here are the lessons we've worked on in January.

January 8th - This week's lesson came from Luke 2:41-52. This is the story of Jesus in the Temple when he was 12. Jesus and his family were worshipping at the Temple. When finished, his parents left with the rest of their caravan. About a day's journey away, they realized that Jesus was not with them. Upon finding Jesus in the Temple with the Priests, Jesus was surprised that his parents would not expect to find him in his Father's house. Also, on this Sunday we enjoyed the annual Smashing of the Gingerbread House. Many thanks to Mrs. Babler for bringing in that house!

January 15th - Our lesson this week told the story of Jesus' baptism and came from Mark 1:4-11. As Jesus came out of the water, the skies parted and the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove. God called out "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased." God made a proclamation to the world: Jesus truly was the Son of God.

January 22nd - This week's story tells about the beginning of Jesus' ministry and comes from Luke 4:14-30. Jesus started teaching in his hometown synagogue. When it was Jesus' turn to speak he chose passages from Isaiah. Those that grew up knowing Jesus as the son of Mary and Joseph did not take to his scripture and drove him out of town.

Jesus pressed on, though and continued to do God's work.

January 29th - Our final week's lesson comes from a couple of verses: Matthew 8:14-17, Mark 1:29-39, and Luke 4:38-41. The scripture tells about Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law. Peter's mother-in-law was sick with a fever. Jesus completely ignored the conventional wisdom of dealing with a fever (and the "magic" it entailed) and instead, healed her with a simple handclasp. Although we often think of the physical aspect when we speak of healing, healing involves the total person - mind, body and spirit.

Children's Ministries....Elaine Dawson

Save the date: February 11th is *the Annual God Squad Spaghetti Dinner*. Come from 5-7 pm and have all you can eat spaghetti; a salad, bread, beverage and dessert, all for \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for those 10 years and younger. A team of 21 mixed aged people from our church will travel to Appalachia this summer for the 4th time to help those in need. When you come and eat spaghetti you help us get there! We will also have a bake sale so come prepared to buy baked goods from some of our best bakers. Please continue to pray for our mission team as we plan our journey with Appalachian Service Project. **Please buy tickets for Spaghetti Dinner in Fellowship Hall on Sunday's.**

Our **ASP Mission Team** meetings will be on Sunday's after church in room 114 on the following dates: March 11th, April 22nd and June 3rd. Thank you to the Kisylia family for hosting a Pool Party for the mission team on July 14th. Details as we get closer. Our mission trip is from July 21-28, 2012.

Thank you to Gretchen Green and her family – Warren and Gigi - for being such a great supporter of God Squad's mission trips. Gretchen has always known the importance of mission both to those who go and those we serve. Warren had been to Appalachia with our church when he was a teen. Warren and Gigi requested donations given in Gretchen's name go to our mission trip to Appalachia at her passing and we have received enough money to send 2 teens on mission who

would not have been able to go. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. **YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE!**

Children's Church: If you are 4 years old through 6th grade meet the church kids in room 114 at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings. We do crafts, discuss the bible story of the day, watch videos, do service projects, have snack, and go to church together and sit with our Sunday School class. Call Elaine at church with any questions.

God Squad will go on their Ski retreat on February 24-26 to Paradise Lake Retreat Center near Shawnee in Pennsylvania. This is our favorite retreat as we have a wonderful cabin with a fireplace, a scary tubing hill, skiing and snowboarding, a spiritual and bonding program, and our own worship service on Sunday morning in our cabin. We are very excited!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) - Don't forget to mark your calendars for June 25-29 for ***Operation Overboard - Dare to Go Deep With God.***

Eco-Tip....Kathy Hackler

In Mingo County, West Virginia - not far from where our church has worked with ASP - there lives a woman by the name of Donna Branham whose family home place was destroyed by mountaintop mining. Their drinking water was contaminated, blasting shook their house every day, they dealt with extreme dust and noise pollution and flyrock-large boulders that the explosion spits out through the air. All across Appalachia coal companies are blowing up mountains, burying streams, and contaminating waters. Cancer rates are 2 times higher in areas of mountaintop removal mining and babies born near mountaintop removal mining are 26 % more likely to be born with birth defects.

Coal companies are now asking for more than 100 new permits for mountaintop mining. If granted, those companies will not only violate the purpose of the Clean Water Act, but could allow them to fill over 300 more valleys, level over 30,000 more mountain acres, destroy over 100 miles of streams, and pollute many more local waterways.

In future weeks, please join us in writing letters to the president to stop these mines.



Our Display in Fellowship Hall and the Lounge celebrates the first year of SOLAR POWER at Red Bank UMC, and all of the preparatory tasks that led up to this green energy solution. Thanks to John Walradt for the wonderful photos of insulation, new windows, pulling out old oil tanks, and more. John is putting together a power point of the process of this ongoing project. You can ask him to show it at a gathering of any group to which you belong, as we want to spread the good news and share the knowledge so more people in our communities will consider this clean energy option. WE ARE SAVING MONEY! And adding MUCH LESS CO2 to our changing environment. Please check out the display next time you are at church.

GF challenges you to eat less meat during Lent. This challenge can be added to the challenge of living on a SNAP budget! Look for a pledge to sign in Fellowship Hall!

Green bottle give away in Fellowship Hall! I hope you will take one home for as long as they last! And watch for other ways to tread lighter in the world.

Your GREEN TEAM met to discuss progress at the 2 year mark of our certification process. Our Green Faith Advisor, Stacey Kennealy, is evaluating our reports and documentation and we know that there is more to accomplish, but much has been done. We ask you to continue to help us find ways to save energy, and to include other faith groups in our activities and programs, as all major religions consider God's Creation as sacred and the need to care for it as very important. A sustainable planet on which to live is our goal, as we share this planet with 7 billion humans and many millions of living creatures. We would like to have your suggestions and ideas. Please contact John Walradt, Susan Drury, Elaine Dawson, Myrna

Bethke, Kathy Hackler, Kathy Grafe, Jack Way, or Janie Schildge, to join our efforts.

Stewardship...George Schildge

Our envelope giving in 2011 declined slightly from 2010 primarily in the second half of the year. A few of our members moved out of the area and the Christmas Season, always wonderful in our church, was not timed to be "stewardship friendly" with Christmas day on a Sunday and the following Sunday already being in 2012.

Now we are starting a new year with great programs and optimism. Youth programs thrive, Adult Education has an interesting program going on and there are opportunities to learn and to eat! Watch for *Elegant Dinners*, *Spaghetti Dinner* for Youth and *Corned Beef & Cabbage* for Scholastic Assistance. Join in!

Our Stewardship results for 2012 bring good and challenging news. Good is that our total pledged amount is ahead of last year at this time and the average commitment of \$2,750.00 is 17% higher. The challenge is that we are missing 12 pledges, so we need to improve our participation at all levels of giving. Estimate of Giving cards are available at the Narthex racks and at the receptionist office.

Thanks for being a part of Red Bank Methodist.

Worship...David Henritz

We are well into our Epiphany theme of finding God in unexpected places: two temporary altars have already appeared. If you haven't found them yet, the first is in the empty space formerly occupied by the soda machine and reminds us of our Baptism; the second is in the alcove leading out to the atrium and illustrates Jesus' command to become fishers of people. The next four Sundays, until the beginning of Lent, will reveal four more symbolic altars. Look for them and stop to say a prayer wherever you find one.

Speaking of Lent, it's hard to believe it is only a month away. Wednesday, February 22nd is Ash

Wednesday. As we have done the last several years, we will host our friends from Embury and Fair Haven First UMCs. And then later, during Holy Week we will rotate worship services at each of these churches. We are also planning to do a devotional booklet for each of the days in Lent and will solicit short contributions from everyone in the church.

Music Ministries...Neil Brown

Easter Musician Stipends. This year, the Worship Committee would like to offer stipends to our college musicians that play on Easter Sunday morning. Can we offer ten (10) stipends? Are you able to assist us? Please contact me if you would like to participate in this ministry.

Ash Wednesday Service. We will again be hosting choir members from area Methodist churches for the Ash Wednesday service on February 22. There will be one rehearsal on February 15 at 8:00 p.m. If you are interested in singing for this service, please join us.

*Keep a smile on your face and
a song in your heart!*



Love is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by the grace which both partners ask and receive from God.

-- C.S. Lewis



If there is peace in your heart, you will find it impossible to hate.

If there is honesty in your heart, you will find it impossible to judge another.

If there is love in your heart, then that is all there is. Fear is gone, as is judgment and the desire for violence.

Church Family News

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

All those in nursing homes, hospitals or homebound, Vicki Kaszuba, AnnMarie Pierro, Betty Tanis, Gil Fell, and all who serve our country here and around the world, the people of Darfur, the people of Haiti and Chili, victims of hurricane and flood destruction, and those who put their lives at risk to help others.

CONDOLENCES

To the Van Velthoven and Bruno families on the death of John's father Pat Bruno.

CHURCH FLOWERS

January 8 – In memory of Alice Hook by Bob Hook and family.

January 22 – In loving memory of Daisy Crater by Theodore Crater and our sons.

February 5 – In honor of Mary on our 60th wedding anniversary by Frank Bowen.

THANK YOU

The family of Gretchen Green wishes to express their gratitude for all the love, prayers, and support that our friends have shown us in our time of need. We sincerely thank you.

Gretchen "Gigi" Morgan and Warren\Green