

## TO WHOM DOES OUR CHURCH BELONG?

As we strive to make disciples for Jesus Christ in our community and beyond we should seriously reflect on our answer to such pivotal question: To whom does our church belong? The answer to that question will certainly define and determine our decisions and, therefore, our course of action. Until an accurate answer is given to this question, the church will always struggle and, even worst, it will turn inwardly losing its very reason of being in the world: proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

As far as I am concerned there is only one correct and final answer to the question: the church belongs to Jesus Christ. The problem is that, although with our words we may affirm “the church belongs to Jesus Christ”, with our decisions and actions we are denying it. More often than not it seems to me that many people think that the church belongs to the denomination, the bishop, the denominational hierarchy, the pastor, the local lay leadership, a particular board or committee, the council, a family or official group, a person or even trustees. No, the church does not belong to any of the above. The church does not even belong to the members; though without them it would cease to exist. The church belongs to Jesus Christ who is the Lord and Savior. That is, Jesus Christ owns the church. The church is Christ’s body, his representative to the world for which he offered his life.

Let’s consider the practical implications of affirming that “Jesus Christ owns the church”. In practical terms it means that we need to align ourselves with what Jesus Christ- the owner- wants from and for the church. It is neither what “I” want for or from the church nor what “we” want for or from the church. This about what “he” - Jesus Christ - wants for and from the church. Therefore, we should and must seek to accomplish Jesus’ goals for the church, to follow Jesus’ methods and in everything to please Jesus Christ. We cannot accomplish the task of seeking out and save the lost while acting as we were just about pleasing some people or avoid getting in trouble with other people. There is no room in Jesus’ Christ church for games of power and control as we were the owners. As long as we continue to think and act as “we” own the church we will continue to struggle. Our only concern, if we wholeheartedly believe that the church belongs to Jesus Christ, must be that in every decision and action Jesus Christ’s love for every person will be shown. The world needs to see that we are not about ourselves but that we are in the world representing Jesus Christ and proclaiming the good news of his love.

I want to challenge each reader of our newsletter to seriously consider your understanding about our mission in our community and continue to support those decisions and actions that will bring the lost to Jesus Christ who owns the church and warranties its presence as the church continues to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Ricardo Ramos

LECTIONARY FOR OCTOBER

October 4

Job 1:1,2:1-10; Psalm 26  
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:6-12; Mark 10:2-16

October 11

Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15  
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

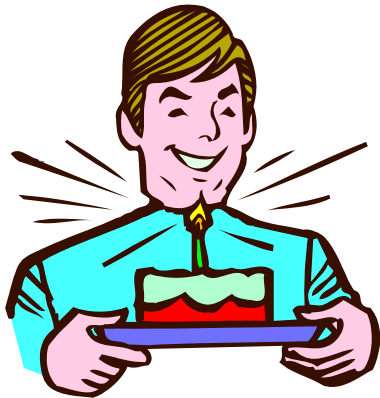
October 18

Job 38:1-7; Psalm 104:1-9,24,35c  
Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45

October 25

Job 42:1-6; Psalm 34:1-8,19-22  
Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

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HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO:

<i>Gertrude Kiely</i>	3
<i>Keith Martinson</i>	5
<i>William Harty</i>	5
<i>Ruth Schulte</i>	6
<i>Bill Forster</i>	9
<i>Charles Lamont</i>	10
<i>Leigh Anne Cross</i>	10
<i>Janet Pavlinic</i>	12
<i>Richard Halterman</i>	12
<i>Louise Yurinko</i>	13
<i>Debbie Schickel</i>	14
<i>William Henel</i>	14
<i>Caroline Long</i>	15
<i>Casey Curtin</i>	19
<i>Thomas Long</i>	26
<i>Bertina Laryea</i>	26
<i>Doris Henel</i>	28
<i>Ethel Steiniger</i>	28

WORLDWIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY



On October 4<sup>th</sup>, at the 10:00 a.m. worship service we will be celebrating Worldwide Communion Sunday along with churches throughout the country of all denominations. It is a day when we emphasize that the body of Christ shares the sacrament in rich diversity, while affirming, "there is one body and one Spirit".

Envelopes will be given out in church the Sunday before and also on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

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DISTRICT DAY AT GATEWAY NORTH

Each year, our Bishop attends District meetings arranged by all District Superintendents so that he can visit each area.

This year, Rev. Dr. Costello, our D.S. has arranged to have the meeting for our district at our church. All churches in the Gateway North District are invited to send representatives from their church to the meeting. The meeting is THURSDAY, OCT. 1<sup>ST</sup> AT 7:00 P.M. in Aldersgate Hall. It will be over by 9:30 p.m.

We especially invite members of the Board of Trustees, Finance, Worship and Pastor/Parish although others are welcome.

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**"FRIENDS ARE GOD'S WAY OF TAKING CARE OF US."**

## BITS AND PIECES

Congratulations to Ethel Bethea who will be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at a special party on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at the senior complex where she resides in Manalapan, N. J. For those who would like to send cards, her address is:

216 Woodward Avenue  
Apt. 255  
Manalapan, N. J. j07726

Happy Birthday, Ethel – we wish we could all be with you to help you celebrate this very special occasion. We know you will be surrounded by your loving family and many friends.

We were sorry to hear that Ellie Butler has been in the hospital and Genesis (Westfield) Nursing Home. Arrangements are being made for a more permanent arrangement by Louise Hasbrouck's niece, Barbara, who has power of attorney for Ellie.

As this article is being typed, MaryJane Koslosky is on the "high seas" cruising in the Caribbean with a friend. They will be gone about a week and they are looking forward to a "fun" time and some beautiful weather – we hope!!! And of course, lots of good food!

We hear very good reports about Bill Martin, Sr. who had a kidney transplant from his son. He is doing well, feeling fine, and so is his son!! We hope you have many good years ahead of you, Bill, and that you and your wife enjoy each one of them.

Special envelopes will be given out on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate, along with churches throughout the world, Worldwide Communion Sunday. Please fill them out and plan to donate to the education of young from this country and beyond.

Jayne and Tony Cocco brought her father, Charles Lamont to the home of Doris Henel on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> to visit for about 5 days. Lots of plans have been made, and Charles will be busy visiting old friends, attending Sunday church service, watching some bowling, and going down the shore. Tom and Bill Henel will be with them

for dinner on Tuesday night so they will have some time for talking and visiting also.

Jayne and Tony will be driving to Colorado in their motor home, to visit their son, Joe and his wife, Tracy, who moved there a number of months ago. So they will be having some "fun" too, and they will also see their brand new home.

Ethel Steiniger is on her way again. She is going "south" to visit with Joan and her husband. They are always so happy to have her with them, especially when the weather starts turning colder. She will leave in September and be gone about three weeks. We'll miss you at the movies, Ethel, but know you will have a great time!

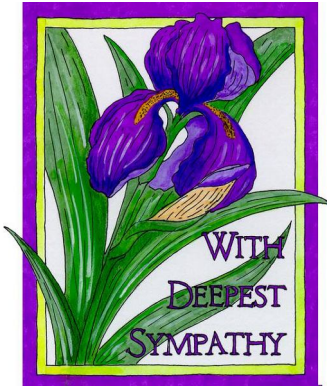
Congratulations to Rev. Dan Bottorff, who was our minister a number of years ago. He served in Linden for 5 years, and completed his education in counseling by attending classes in New York for the last two years he was with us. We loved having Dan and Sue and their children with us, and can't believe that he has now retired. He is not far away, thought. They bought a home in Westfield soon after they left us and are still there. Good luck to the whole family!!

(I will always remember Al and I traveling cross-country and staying with Dan's parents in Iowa, twice on the way west. I had my first experience with a tornado while in their home. I'll never forget it – nor will I forget how gracious and welcoming his parents were to us!)

Lorraine and Bob Carhart spent two weeks in Florida during August. They had a wonderful time, but were sorry to miss Beatrice Bradford's wedding. Beatrice and Samuel also spent a short time in Florida and were able to telephone the Carhart's just before they returned home.

Debbie Horne and her two daughters, and her mother, Kathryn Gmitter spent a week in the Lancaster, Pa. area during August. That is a beautiful place and the sightseeing and food are really special. They must have all had a great time!!

*The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."*



BISHOP'S SONGFEST

WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYPMATHY TO;

The Family of Richard B. Pratt, of Warwick, R.I. who died on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at age 52.

Richard was the beloved husband of Donna A. Pratt. He was born in Elizabeth, N. J., the son of Lewis Pratt and the late Rosalie Pratt. He is survived by two children, Travis A. Pratt of Warwick, R. I. and Nicole D. Pratt of Edison, N. J. He is also survived by four sisters and was the nephew of Caroline and Tom Long who requested we list him on our Prayer List for the last few months. Richard will be missed by his loving family and many friends.

The family would like to thank the church members for their many prayers on his behalf.

Pl an on attending the Bishop's songfest in the great auditorium in ocean grove on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Tony Godlefski is organizing this and a "dress rehearsal" for those taking part will be on the day of the event from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

PLEASE EMAIL to the address listed below, if you plan to take part in the choir.

[pastortony@montgomeryumc.org](mailto:pastortony@montgomeryumc.org)

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**FROM THE CITY OF LINDEN**

***Please be advised that, due to furlough's being imposed by the City of Linden, the City Clerk's Office of Vital Statistics will be closed on the following dates:***

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

***No business will be transacted on the above listed dates. Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, Crematory, and House's of Worship who might need an application and issuance of marriage licenses should make special note.***

**RUMMAGE SALE**

*OCTOBER 19, 20, 21, 22 – Please call Doris Henel, 486-5571 if you can help set up on any of the days listed. There is so much rummage that a few "seniors" cannot handle it all. We need help and we would be glad to have a few hours on any of the above dates.*

*OCTOBER 23 – 9 TO 1 P.M.*

*OPEN TO THE PUBLIC*

*OCTOBER 24 – 9 TO NOONTIME (12:00)*

*OPEN TO THE PUBLIC*

*We will be packing up everything to help cloth the needy around 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. Please help us – many hand make light work! Bring to Epworth Hall anytime – white elephant items in good shape, women, men & children's clothing, soft cover books, linens, jewelry, toys in good condition.*

MORE BITS AND PIECES

The following note was received from Sue Archer, daughter of Mary Jones, our church member, whose obituary was in the September Messenger. She also sent a very nice donation to the church to be used where needed. This has been turned over to the Memorial Fund.

“To all the United Methodist Women of the Linden Methodist Church:

Dear Friends,

I can’t express the gratitude we feel for your friendship with Mom and your prayers and support for both her and her family.

We greatly appreciate all your helping hands and hard work in Aldersgate Hall after the funeral.

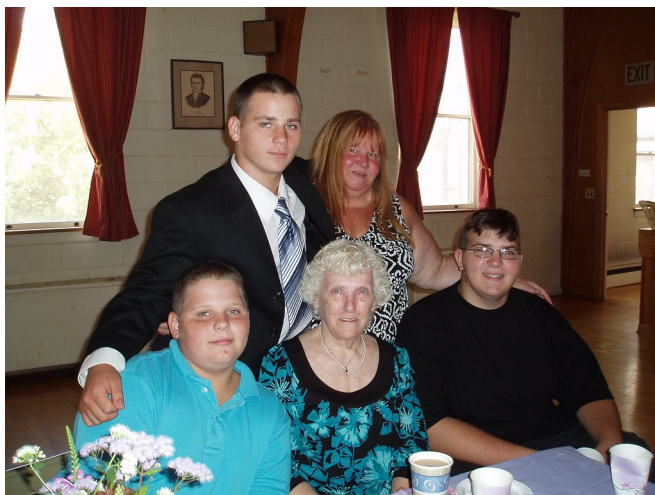
Thank you all,

Sincerely,  
Sue Archer

She also enclosed a lovely card given out at the funeral home that expressed Mary’s thoughts exactly and is worth repeating here.

“Grieve not....nor speak of me with tears...but. laugh and talk of me as though I were beside you. I loved you so...’twas Heaven here with you.

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Tyler & Travis Horsch with their grandmother, Vera Horsch and Aunt, Kathie Horsch

SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

This was our first Sunday of the new season, back in our sanctuary for our worship service at 10:00 a.m. We all enjoyed the summer months in air-conditioned Aldersgate Hall, but we always welcome the return to our sanctuary.

It is the place where we are surrounded by memories of the past and those people who were so important to us. It is the place where new members will form their memories for the future.

On this Sunday, we also honored our young people who were confirmed in May – Christopher Beyer, Tyler and Travis Horsch and Gissela Roberts.

Those present were presented to the congregation and Rev. Ramos welcomed their parents and grandparents. A coffee hour was held in Aldersgate Hall following the service. We look forward to our young people becoming an important part of our congregation.

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Christopher Beyer with his parents, Louise and Donald Beyer.





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

*On Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, the United Methodist Women had their first meeting with the new president, Doris Henel. This has been shared this year, by Gertrude Baldwin serving as president from January to June, and Doris Henel from September through November, with both of them sharing the annual Christmas luncheon.*

*Proceeding the meeting, they had a luncheon served by Doris in her home (virgin pina colada, and crab puffs, soup, salad, main course, rolls, dessert and raspberry iced tea) Everyone enjoyed it and paid \$10.00 a piece which was turned over to Mildred Ebert, the treasurer of the UMW and so they ate good and the budget profited by it! Everybody was happy!!!*

*Discussion was held about the rummage sale on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Help is desperately needed to help set up since there is probably more rummage then ever before. If you can help anytime during that week, PLEASE CALL DORIS HENEL(486-5571) OR GERTRUDE BALDWIN (862-9473) AND THERY WILL MAKE SURE THAT SOMEONE IS THERE TO HELP YOU. EVEN A COUPLE HOURS WILL HELP!!!!*

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR A CHAIRPERSON OF THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR. WE HAVE SOMEONE WHO WILL WORK WITH YOU, AND OTHERS WHO WILL HELP WHERE NEEDED. PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT - AND CALL DORIS HENEL, 486-5571.**

**THE DATE IS SET AS ALWAYS - THE SATURDAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING - NOVEMBER 21, 2009 - 10 AM TO 3 PM**

*THE MEMORIAL GARDEN*

Over the years, the men and women of the church, under the leadership of Gertrude Baldwin, have taken care of our Memorial Garden. Every bush, tree and flower is given in memory or honor of a loved one. We have planted, cleared out weeds, spread chips and put in plastic covering to try and keep the weeds out. We have nurtured it, conducted church services, sang at Christmastime, had church picnics, and even the community has enjoyed the beautiful flowering trees every spring. But now most of those who have been taking care of our garden are older and less able to do all the work of caring for it. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** *On Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. we are asking all those who are willing to give a few hours to come to the garden and help us keep it as beautiful as it has always been. This is your garden with memories of your loved ones reminding you each day of how much they meant to you and what an important part of your life they were.*

**Please call Gertrude Baldwin, 862-9473, if you can help. Beverage and refreshments will be served.**

*We will be celebrating the 143<sup>rd</sup> year of the incorporation of our church here in the City of Linden, the next day, Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. How proud we will be to see our garden and church grounds looking so great for the special occasion!*

**COMING IN 2010**

***Something new that will honor our loved ones and help the Endowment Fund.***

*The Finance Committee recommended to the Administrative Council, that once a year we have a special Endowment Fund Sunday. At this time people could list a loved one's name, plus donate any amount of money, in their memory. The name will be listed in the bulletin and in a permanent Endowment Book. Names could be added each year, or the same person could be honored and remembered - whichever you chose to do. The Administrative Council approved this recommendation. More information will follow in 2010 as plans are made.*

STEWARDSHIP

Our Stewardship emphasis will begin on Sunday, October 11, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and continue until Dedication Sunday, November 1, 2009. We will be bringing messages and information about the rewards we receive from being good stewards of all God has given us. Our program is "Joy of Generous Giving". Watch for future news about this important matter.

Gertrude Baldwin,  
Stewardship Chairperson

Some interesting thoughts.....

Recently a member of the Nurture Committee pointed out to us that all the plastic dishes we use at our functions are marked with a ♻ which means they should be recycled. We are not doing this - we dispose of them in the garbage to fill up the landfill. We have decided to make a strong push to get everyone to be better stewards and see that these plastic items get in the recycle bin in the kitchen.

There is another answer – all this plastic comes at great cost to this church. In our stewardship of church finances, please consider that we have a complete set of dinnerware paid for about 40 years ago. The only cost for using them is a bottle of detergent and some elbow grease to wash these dishes and put back into the closet. Share the dishwashing chore and save our church money and help us to keep these plastic materials out of the landfills.

We are not only stewards of our money; we are stewards of everything on this earth. Please help the Nurture and Stewardship Committees in this effort.

Thank you.

Gertrude Baldwin, Chairperson  
Stewardship

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THE LINDEN LIBRARY BOARD &  
FRIENDS OF THE LINDEN LIBRARY  
ARE HAVING A "TRICKY TRAY"  
FRIDAY, OCT. 2<sup>ND</sup> TO RAISE MONEY

TO PURCHASE FURNITURE FOR THE  
NEW LIBRARY BEING BUILT NOW.  
THE "TRICKY TRAY" WILL BE AT  
THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, PARK  
AVENUE, LINDEN. DOORS OPEN AT  
6:00 P.M.

ADVANCE COST IS \$8.00 - AT THE  
DOOR \$10.00

PLEASE CALL 908-298-3830, x14  
FOR TICKETS.

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SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the family of Kay Hoff and her extended family, the members of the Reformed Church. Kay died on September 12, 2009. The viewing was held at the Leonard Lee Funeral Home, with the service on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at the Reformed Church of Linden conducted by Rev. David Groeneveld. Interment was at the Rosedale Memorial Park in Linden. Kay was the Reformed Church secretary for 30 years and loved by all who knew her. She will be missed by everyone.



Charles Lamont visits Doris Henel for 5 days. He was happy to attend church and the Coffee Hour on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

OCTOBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7-9:30 PM – Bishop’s visit – DAY AT GATE-WAY NORTH AT OUR CHURCH All invited. 4:30-9:30-Fenc.Sch	2	3  9:30-1:30 - Fencing School
4 8:30-Choir Rehearsal 9:30 – Worship Serv.  WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY	5  7pm – Board of Trustees D.Beyer,T.Henel, W.Hanns,J.Stamer, J.Valdez,B.Losyk, B.Carhart 4:30-9:30-Fenc.Sch.	6 11:30 AM – United Methodist Women Aldersgate Hall  4:30-9:30-Fencing School	7  4:30-9:30 Fencing School	8  4:30-9:30-Fencing School	9	10  9:30-1:30 – Fencing School
11 8:30-Choir 10-Worship STEWARDSHIP MOMENT	12  4:30-9:30-Fencing School	13 11 AM & 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY BOOK OF PSALMS 4:30-9:30-Fencing School	14  4:30-9:30-Fencing School	15  4:30-9:30-Fencing School	16	17  9:30-1:30-Fencing School
18 8:30-Choir 10-Worship Service STEWARDSHIP MOMENT	19  4:30-9:30-Fencing School  <p style="text-align: center;">S E T</p>	20 11 AM & 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY BOOK OF PSALMS 4:30-9:30-Fencing School <p style="text-align: center;">U P F O R T H E</p>	21  4:30-9:30-Fencing School  <p style="text-align: center;">R U M M A G E</p>	22  4:30-9:30-Fencing School  <p style="text-align: center;">S A L E</p>	23 9-1 PM RUMMAGE SALE OPENTO PUBLIC	24 9-12 NOON RUMMAGE SALE OPEN TO PUBLIC 9:30-1:30 – Fencing School
25 8:30-Choir 10-Worship Service STEWARDSHIP MOMENT	26  4:30-9:30 – Fencing School	27 11 AM & 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY BOOK OF PSALMS  4:30-9:30 – Fencing School	28  4:30-9:30-Fencing School	29  4:30-9:30 – Fencing School	30	31  9:30-1:30-Fencing School