

Have you ever noticed that just as your cup of happiness is full and you finally settle back to enjoy it, somebody bumps your elbow? Happiness can be an elusive thing. I don't know how you would measure this, but according to one study only 20 % of the people in the U.S. claim to be happy. For some people it is that bumped elbow upsetting their cup of happiness. For others, it can be that thing that never happens that upsets their happiness. But, what is your picture of a happy life? Is your picture of the happy life the "American dream", the ideal of owning a home, two car garage, having 2 kids and a dog, enjoying your job, and having enough money to enjoy your leisure? What is your picture of a happy life? Where are the places you visit to find happiness, the movie theater, the amusement park, mountain hiking trail, the shopping mall, a good restaurant, Bank One Ball Park? Or maybe for you it's not the place so much as the circumstances that you hope will make you happy. Are you looking for happiness to come through something else? Perhaps you are looking for happiness in your relationships, or your family life? Or perhaps you are waiting for happiness to return with the change of circumstances, like the restoration of your health, or your financial situation, or finding the right job, or the right romance. Where do you look for happiness?

Take a moment before we start to fill in the following blank, "I would be happier if _____." That statement you just wrote down says a lot about what you believe. It might even say something about your approach to life. I want you to compare the statement you wrote down and your beliefs about happiness with some of the words of Jesus describing the happy life.

Jesus gave us a picture of a happy life that was very different. Jesus told us you can find happiness in strange places. He described these strange places to find happiness at the beginning of his ministry when he gave a defining message, his Kingdom Manifesto, a message that is commonly called The Sermon on the Mount. This sermon begins with those familiar words "blessed are." Modern translators have often used the words "happy [are]" or "fortunate [are]" instead of "Blessed [are]" as a translation to the term Jesus used.

This section of Jesus' message is referred to as the beatitudes. The beatitudes are not a series of commands, but blessings that are described and the promises associated with the attitudes that are rewarded with these blessings. The beatitudes describe the kind of person who will receive the blessings of God. The beatitudes identify a series of qualities that produce happiness, even though happiness is not readily apparent: humbleness, righteousness and peacemaking.

Let us pray so we may also experience happiness:

Dear Lord,

We want the kind of lasting happiness and blessing that comes from you. So we want to bend our attitudes to fit with your program for happiness. We admit that we are poor in spirit. We are spiritually bankrupt apart from your help. We mourn over our own sin. We have made many messes of our lives. We have hurt you and we have hurt others. We have every reason to remain humble. Help us to respond with the strength of meekness, depending upon you. We are hungry and thirsty for righteousness. We want more of you in our lives. We want to be merciful. We choose to forgive those who have hurt us. We release them into your hands. Help us to be people who reflect your mercy. Lord, we ask you to cleanse our hearts so that we might be pure of heart. Where we are holding back, help us to see how it is hurting us rather than making us happy. Lord we offer ourselves to you as instruments of peace. Help us to have the courage to be part of the solution for people who need peace like we have received. Give us courage when we find ourselves in conflicts. Give us the ability to go through that tunnel of chaos to the place of reconciliation. Lord, give us courage to stand for the things you stand for, even when it means mistreatment, or misunderstanding. Allow us to shine with the light of life you place in us, through Jesus. It is in His Name that we pray.

LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY

February 6

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-10
I Corinthians 2:1-12 (13016); Matthew 5:13-20

February 13

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8
I Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

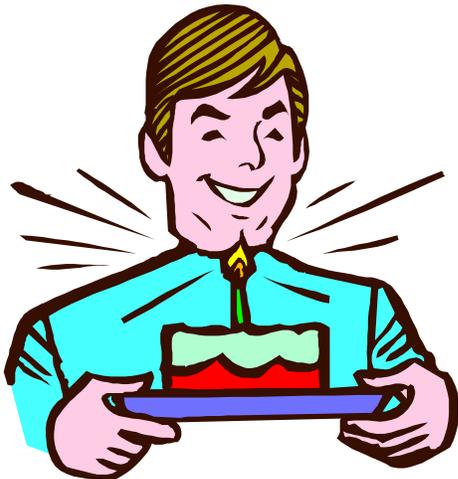
February 20

Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18; Psalm 119:33-40
I Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

February 27

Isaiah 49:8-16a; Psalm 131
I Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34

.....



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| William Heinaman | 5 |
| Joanne Murphy | 6 |
| Thomas Henel | 8 |
| John Cammarata | 13 |
| Joseph Stamer | 14 |
| Alexander Mellor Henelsmith | 18 |
| Celina Faye Henelsmith | 18 |
| John Henel | 19 |
| Mark Halterman | 20 |
| Johnson Michael Tan | 23 |
| James Stamer | 24 |
| Susan Henel | 25 |
| Mary Donnelly | 25 |
| Walter Baldwin, Jr. | 27 |

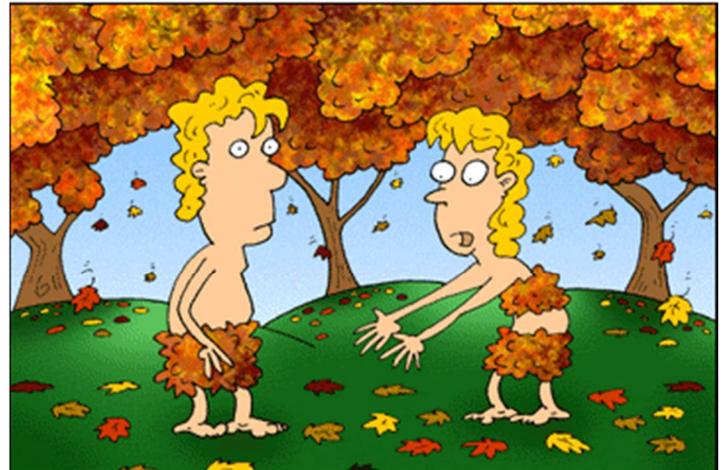
.....and many, many more!!!!

THANKS FOR THE HELP!

How beautiful our sanctuary looked for the Christmas holidays. The help we received putting up the Christmas tree, decorating it along with the windows and the sanctuary was very much appreciated. Each year our tree shines with the Crismons (Christian symbols) done in counted cross-stitch by members of our church many years ago. It took a long time to make enough to decorate the tree, and it was decided then, that that they would be our only decoration on our church tree each year, along with the lights. Many of those that made them are no longer with us and it gives us great joy to see their handiwork and remember them with much affection. We thank all those that helped, and those that also helped pack it away for another Christmas. We couldn't have done it without YOU!

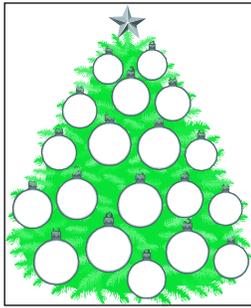
.....

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT G4, INC.



WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?

10-06-2006



THE ANGEL TREE

It was a really good Christmas! Many members and friends donated \$5.00 to purchase an angel from the tree and replaced it with a paper one on which they wrote a loved ones name.

This project raised \$180. which will be donated to the United Methodist Homes of New Jersey from our church.

Blessing to all those who helped make this gift to the Homes possible.

Carolyn Franz, Chairperson
Outreach Committee

.....
CHRISTMAS CARDS IN THE CHURCH

Each year we ask members to send cards to the church for Christmas instead of individual ones. It saves time and money and a card sent to the church reaches all our members. For those people who might not have been able to read all the cards posted at the back of the church on our beautiful stand, donated many years ago, by The Werson Funeral Home, we are listing them with some of the notes on the cards. We hope you enjoy them.

Dave, Karen, Scott, Bill, Beth & Mark - a very interesting Christmas letter and picture of their daughter's wedding was enclosed. See the picture on next page.

Gertrude Baldwin - With Love

Doris Henel - Merry Christmas

Mary Barnes - Love to all, God Bless.

Marie Dziamba - Love to all

Lou Kozar - Love to all friends at church

Doris Stamer - Have a wonderful holiday

Carolyn Franz - Love to my friends

Diaz & Gonzales Family -To all at UMC

Richard & Karen Brinckmann-Hard to believe it's been 11 years since we moved.

Still miss our friends in that really special church. Have a wonderful Christmas.

Joy Hinko & Family-To our church family

Vera & Kathie Horsch - To the best people I know

Faith & Dick Halterman- Your Maine friends

Bob & Lorraine Carhart - With Love

Janet & Stan, Mike Pavlinic A loving and inspiring letter was enclosed. See next page for picture.

Mildred Ebert- Happy healthy new year

Mary Dalziel - Much love to all.

Lois Cammarata & Family - Love to all

Diane Merrill Jones & Vivienne Merrill

Joyce & Norman Carhart-Happy Holiday

Grace Lawson Hickman-Regards to all

George & Florence Fedeles - Love &

Prayers. We miss you and think of you very often. Sorry about all the losses and sickness. May the healing power of the Lord be with you.

Ruth Schulte - Love & God Bless you all.

Beatrice Bradford & Family -May God richly bless you all.

Charles Lamont & Jayne Cocco - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Barbara Spillinger - Merry Christmas

A SPECIAL GREETING FROM POLAND

This special Christmas greeting came from Poland, addressed to the United Methodist Church, and we thought you might enjoy reading it:

Warm Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for you Rev. Ramos and your whole congregation from Polish Methodist brother and sisters in Jesus. (We paid you a visit in July during our stay in Linden). Wishing once again a Wonderful Christmas and all God's blessings!

Adam, Aneka, Micheline Mrdz

When we met for church in the summer in Aldersgate Hall, they attended our service. They were lovely people and we were all glad to be able to speak to them. If they return to this area for another visit, we hope we will see them again.



This is the picture sent by Janet Pavlinic, including children, grandchildren and other interesting scenes.



David and Karen LeDuc at daughter, Elizabeth's wedding, including sons, Scott and Billy.



Charles Lamont and his daughter, Jayne Cocco visit with Doris Henel when they drove from Maryland to attend the Christmas Church Fair. It is so good to see family again!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN RUMMAGE SALE - Start saving your items now!!!

Friday, April 15 – 9 to 1 p.m.

Saturday, April 16 – 9 to noontime

_ Although we had planned to only have one sale in the Fall, Louise Yurinko was very thoughtful and left us many of her lovely clothes for our sale. We don't want to hold them until the Fall and so will be having a Spring Sale.

We need items from you also – men, women and children's clothing, linens, shoes, purses, white elephant, jewelry. Bring them to Epworth Hall anytime.

BITS AND PIECES

MIT TEAM WINS PROTEIN-FOLDING PRIZE

Kate Moreau was one of a three member "Team Crystallin" coming in first among 25 teams in the 2010 University Protein Folding Challenge.

The 3 members will share the \$5,000. prize which is awarded to the team that did the best job of using Foldit software to find an everexpressed protein linked to pancreatic cancer.

Kate is the daughter of Diane Drahos, granddaughter of Marie Dziamba and was a postdoctoral fellow at MIT.

.....and what a snow storm it was!!! Most of New Jersey had a hard time digging out. Some of our members were stranded in places other than their homes. Norman Carhart was in Linden, staying at Lorraine and Bob Carhart's home, and Doris Henel was in Brick at the home of Bobbie Bogard. Norman was trying to get back to his home in Brick, and Doris was trying to get from Brick to Linden. Both were stranded by so much snow and unplowed roads but eventually they both made it back where they belonged. Winter has just started and we're all looking forward to Spring!!

Our Christmas Eve service at 10:00 p.m. was a beautiful service. It was very well attended by members of our church and El Redentor. All our choir members filled the choir loft and we loved the beautiful anthems they sang during the service. The Candlelighting is a highlight of the evening, and we always look forward to hearing the Christmas story in scriptures.

once again.

We thank Rev. Ramos for the lovely service, Jane McCarthy for being such a dedicated organist/choir director, the choir for being so faithful every Sunday, and especially on Christmas Eve, and our members who continue to support our church and each other.

And now we begin another year, 2011 - the 145th year celebrating the incorporation of the United Methodist Church here in the City of Linden.

Mycroft Laryea, son of Beatrice Bradford, sends his best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year to all our members from Ghana, Africa. He is receiving treatment for sickle cell anemia and will be gone for a few more months.

Before returning from Brick and Bobbie Bogard's home, Doris Henel and Bobbie visited with Dottie and Larry Diaz in Toms River. It was a wonderful visit and there were many memories and laughs that they enjoyed sharing. Larry has Parkinson's disease but his sense of humor and laugh are still a great part of him, and the present was forgotten as they remembered the joys of the past. It's a visit they will repeat again soon.

Dottie and Larry both send their best wishes to any of their friends that are still here, plus those that receive this Messenger via the Internet. They always love company - 1724 4TH Ave., Toms River, N. J. Telephone: 732-244-1989. Stop and see them sometime.

DID YOU SEE IT?

The following message was left on the church secretary's desk.

"Did anyone find a check book? Please call Heather – 732-407-5559."

If you can help, please call her.



NAMES ON OUR PRAYER LIST RECENTLY

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Mary Barnes | Mary Dalziel |
| Leona Parker | Janet Pavlinic |
| Mycroft Laryea | Pauline Agumba |
| Raymond Meisnest | Sheila Brown |
| Katherine Perona | Charles Lamont |
| Lynn Madison | Lacey McNicholas |
| Hanns Family | Ethel Strand |
| Kime Smith | Anita Hawkes |

.....
When opening the Star Ledger January 6, 2011, a name was listed on the obituary page that was very familiar and one that some people in our church would remember.

In 1944 – 1946, the late Rev. C. Frederick Poppy served as our minister. His son, C. Frederick Poppy, Jr. died on January 4, 2011. He was a member of Trinity UMC, Hackettstown, N. J. and is survived by his wife, two sons and one daughter.

There are not many left, but we know that there are still some of members, and previous members, of our church, that will have fond memories of Rev. Poppy.

.....
END OF THE YEAR STATEMENTS

This year, we will only be sending end of the year statements to those who need it for their income tax reports. Please call or email Doris Henel, 908-486-5571 or Djhenel@aol.com if you need a statement.

Since Mary Dalziel was our Financial Secretary, it will take some time to get things in order. We appreciate her daughter, Mary Jane Koslosky, getting things together so that we will have statements ready for those who really need them.

On Friday, January 14, 2011 our long-time church member and friend, Mary Dalziel, died after a few weeks in the hospital. She was improving after a heart-by-pass operation, but took a bad turn and many complications occurred in the following weeks.

When we celebrated our Anniversary Sunday in September, Mary was listed as the second longest member of our church. She was also our Financial Secretary since 1979 – 32 years!! Mary was a Girl Scout leader in our church and worked many years with the Wednesday Workshop and helped cater weddings, showers, scouting dinners, and parties in Epworth Hall and later in Aldersgate Hall. Mary was married to Robert “Dee” Dalziel for 67 years,(both just 18 years old), when he died on January 23, 2008. She also was the grandmother of the late George Koslosky, who died January 5, 2010.

Mary is survived by her two daughters, Mary Jane Koslosky, and Kathy Curtin, husband, Michael Curtin, grandchildren, Glen Curtin and his wife, Mary, Steven Curtin and wife Lil, Kelly, Casey and Michael Curtin and his girlfriend, Dusti Romano, and four great-grandchildren, Kaila, Connor, Kyle and Brianna Curtin.

A Memorial Service was held in our church on Saturday, January 22, 2011. The women of the church served a luncheon in Aldersgate Hall following the service.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made in her name, to the United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 321 No. Wood Ave., Linden, N. J. 07036. Mary will be missed by her loving family and her many friends.

.....
SOME CHANGES ARE BEING MADE ON OUR WEB PAGE AS WE CHANGE OUR WEB HOSTING COMPANY. YOU MIGHT NOT GET THROUGH FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS BUT YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED WHEN IT IS COMPLETED.

FEBRUARY, 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:30 Bible Study 11:30-United Meth Women 4:30-6:30 - Weight Watchers 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	2 4:30-9:30 FencingSch	3 4:30-9:30-FencingSch.	4	5 9:30-1:30 Fencing School
6 8:30-Choir Rehearsal 10 – Worship Service	7 -Board of Trustees (D.Beyer,T.Henel, W.Hanns,J.Stamer C.Ettel,G.Baldwin F.Losyk) 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch.	8 11 - Bible Study 4:30-6:30 -Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	9 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	10 4:30-9:30-Fencing School	11	12 9:30-1:30 – Fencing School in gym
13 8:30-Choir Rehearsal 10-Worship Service	14 4:30-9:30-Fencing School GATEWAY NORTH RESOURCE DAY UMC – Roselle Park 8:30-1 PM-Pastors 7-9:30 PM-All	15 11- Bible Study in Youth Room 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	16 1 4:30-9:30-Fencing School	17 4:30-9:30-Fenc.Sch	18	19 9:30-1:30-Fencing School in gym
20 8:30 Choir Rehearal 10-Worship Service	21 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	22 11 – Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	23 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	24 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	25	26 9:30-1:30-Fencing Sch
27 8:30 - Choir 10:00 Worship Service	28 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch					