

A BRIEF REFLECTION ON THE BEATITUDES

Matthew 5: 3-12

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 OCTOBER

October 7

**Job 1:1;2:1-10; Psalm 26 or Palm 25
Hebrews 1;1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16**

October 14

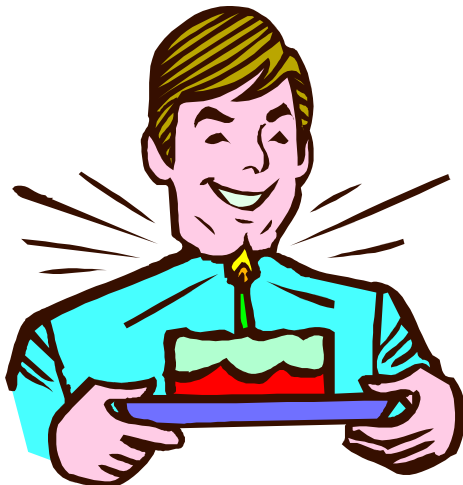
**Job 23:1-9,16-17; Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31**

October 21

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

October 28

**Job 42:1-6,10-17; Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)
Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52**



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO:

- Gertrude Kiely 3
- Keith Martinson 5
- William Harty 5
- Ruth Schulte 7
- Bill Forster 9
- Charles Lamont 10
- Leigh Anne Cross 10
- Janet Pavlinic 12
- Richard Halterman 12
- Debbie Schickel 14
- William Henel 14
- Betty Hoff 15
- Caroline Long 15
- Casey Curtin 19

- Thomas Long 26
- Beatrice Bradford 26
- Doris Henel 28
- Ethel Steiniger 28

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

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

WHEN? Sunday, November 11

TIME? 8:00 a.m. Trustees will meet the D. S. for inspection of the parsonage.

8:30 a.m. Pastor/Parish will meet with the D. S., Rev. Dr, Jinsun Kwak

9:30 a.m. Annual Church Conference in Aldersgate Hall. All are urged to attend this annual meeting.

10:30 a.m. Regular worship service in the sanctuary.

At this annual meeting, conducted by our District Superintendent, the budget will be presented, business conducted, and the Nominating Committee will present the slate of officers for 2013. We ask that you mark this date on your calendar and join us at 9:30 a.m. before our 10:30 a.m. worship service. We look forward to seeing you!!

THE FOLLOWING TAKEN FROM CHURCH BULLETINS:

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

BITS AND PIECES

A special "thank you" to Sue, the daughter of Mary Jones, former member of our church, and MaryJane & Kathy, daughters of Mary Dalziel, who was a member for over 50 years, who are both now deceased.

They have donated, to the church, quite a bit of furniture which the United Methodist Women is using in our church parsonage as they replace what was lost and damaged by the water flooding the house.

The furniture is lovely and was used in each of their homes and we are pleased to have it and remember those that were an active part of our church.

Thank you all for thinking of us!

We hear from Gay Kulberda that Ethel Bethea will be celebrating her 103rd birthday! She still goes on day trips to Atlantic City and enjoys sitting on the benches and relaxing.

We miss you, Ethel, and hope you keep having "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS".

The Donald Beyer family took a few days' vacation to the Williamsburg, Va. area and enjoyed it very much. Chris will be a senior this year, and so it might be the last vacation in the summer that he will take with the family – but they still have Brooke to enjoy the outings.

Beatrice Bradford spent about a month in Ghana this summer visiting family and her husband. We always miss her when she is gone, but we know how much she looks forward to her trip. Maybe next time, her husband will come here! We miss him, too!

MaryJane Koslosky and Kathy Curtin will be leaving in early October for a two-week vacation, touring some of the southern states. The doctor's office where Kathy had been working for quite a long time, closed, and she is now retired. We know she misses her work, and wouldn't be surprised if she looks around to see if there is any other position that tempts her.

Nancy Jane and Gertrude Baldwin, were planning to spend Columbus Day weekend at Cape May as they had been doing for 45 years. Doris Henel, Carolyn Franz and Bobbie Bogard, were to stay in the connecting room next door to them which they have been doing for about 10 years. However things do change and both Nancy Jane and Doris are having some trouble driving great distances and so a few weeks before their trip, they cancelled the reservations. It was disappointing, but always good to remember the wonderful times they had and consider themselves lucky to have had them

Jayne and Otts are now settled in their new home in Maryland and we are listing the information below:

Jayne & Otts Schnellenberger (Zahorbenski)
28887 Jasper Lane
Easton, Md. 21601

Telephone: 443-385-0464

Email – schnell1@goeaston.net

Instead of being two days away from New Jersey, they are now about 3 hours. That change enabled them to drive to Walter & Sue Baldwin's home in Mullica Hill, N. J. to join the rest of the family for the day. And they all had a great time!

Ruth Schulte spent about 5 days in Ohio visiting with her brother. It was a visit she had been looking forward to and was happy that her short illness did not prevent her from riding with her family in the car and enjoying the trip.



DO YOU REMEMBER LEAH VALDEZ'S WEDDING?



FOREVER YOUNG CHURCH GROUP

On Tuesdays, during the summer, the *Forever Young* group (made up of the people attending the Bible Study from Sept. to June) continued looking for restaurants that were new to them and ones they had previously enjoyed. Everyone looked forward to Tuesdays and all went very smoothly except for a visit to the Olive Garden. Two cars with women looking forward to a nice meal, left at the same time, but unfortunately, there was some confusion about *WHICH* Olive Garden they were going to. No one knew they were *confused* until they each arrived but were missing the people from the other car. After a lot of waiting, and some help from one of the waiters, a telephone call was made, and one car was at the Rt. 22 Olive Garden and the other was at Woodbridge Center. By then it was too late to get together, so everyone ate where they were and all had a great laugh and from then on they made sure they knew exactly where they were going!!



BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Rev. Ramos has resumed his Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. Bible Classes in the Youth Room each week. They have been well attended and we invite everyone to join us. The class lasts about an hour and we assure you it will be an hour well-spent!!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Gertrude Baldwin and her committee met and completed plans for the Stewardship drive this fall. The kick-off will be on Sunday, during the worship service, October 14th and the Dedication of Pledge Cards will be at the Sunday worship service on October 28th. The Stewardship Committee will host a coffee hour on this date to celebrate the conclusion of the Stewardship drive.

You will receive a letter from the committee with a pledge card included. Please fill the card out and plan to return it on Pledge Sunday (October 28th) or mail it to the church as soon as possible

Even if you have not pledged before, please consider doing so this year. It is our responsibility to support our church and just as you must know how much money you will have to support your own expenses, so must the church know what they can anticipate. As our members retire, move away or die, it becomes more important than ever that we all share in the support of the UMC of Linden. We are here when you need us – are you here when we need you? Think about it!!



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

During the summer months, Jack and Lori Valdez made sure we had flowers from their beautiful flower garden at their home. Even if they couldn't get to church, they made sure we had the flowers. They were always beautiful and we thank them for their thoughtfulness!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Recently a donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Larry and Dottie Diaz was received. The note below was attached to the check:

“Larry and Dottie Diaz baby sat for us a lot. Here is a small remembrance for them and others who have gone on before them
I fell and broke my femur 5 weeks ago.
Just about well enough to come home but need a little more therapy.”

Mary Dike

Bill Dike (and his wife Mary) served as the pastor of our church a number of years ago. When he left here, he became a chaplain in the Navy and retired a few years ago.



**TWO OLD FRIENDS FROM THE PAST!
Al Henel and Bob Schickel**

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PRAYER LIST OVER THE LAST MONTHS

Bill Forster	Leona Parker	Dan Ajuka
Janet Pavlinic	John Markus	Kime Smith
Ethel Steiniger	Ethel Bethea	Mildred Ebert
Frances Gunther	Joseph Stamer	SophiaMeolia
Gale Williams	Mickey Kiely	Bill Stevens
Joy Hinko’s Mother	Pam Humphries Daughter	
Family of George Barnes	Chichester Family	

CAN YOU HELP?

Lorraine Carhart is in need of additional Lay Readers for our Sunday worship service. She will see that you receive the information before the Sunday that you would be reading so that you will be comfortable taking part.
Please call her if you could help on any Sunday that is convenient for you..... 908-925-4865.

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HAM AND YAM DINNER

The Friends of the Linden Library will be having a Ham and Yam Dinner on Friday, October 26th in the Gregorio Center from 5 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$10. The fund raiser is to help purchase items needed within the new Library. If you would like a ticket please speak to Doris Henel, 486-5571 and she will be pleased to sell you one.

REPORTS NEEDED FOR THE CHURCH CONFERENCE

Time passes so quickly! Once again we are preparing for the Annual Church Conference. This year it is Sunday, November 11th at 9:30 a.m. before our 10:30 a.m. worship service.

As you read in another part of the Messenger, we are asking all to consider attending this meeting. All members are welcome and can vote.

The following must turn in their reports as soon as possible to Doris Henel:

- 1, Report on Nominations
2. Lay Speaker Report
3. Annual Report of Trustees
4. Membership Report
5. Pastor’s Continuing Education
6. 2013 Budget
- 7, Current Expense Report-2012
8. Summery-Budgeted Disbursements
9. Memorial Fund Report
- 10.Pastor’s Report

Please make every effort to turn your report in so that a special telephone call does not have to be made.

Thank you.

Doris Henel

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GETTING READY FOR A RUMMAGE SALE!

WHEN? Friday and Saturday, October 19 & 20

TIME? 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

SET UP? Wednesday, October 17 – 9:30 a.m.

WE NEED RUMMAGE!!! Please bring your rummage to Epworth Hall as soon as possible. We do not have much at this point and will have to cancel unless we receive more. The rummage sales are our only fund raising events held each year.

We need men's, women and children's clothing, linens, jewelry, shoes, purses, toys, soft-covered books (no magazines or hardcover books) and white elephant items in good condition.

We also need help on Thursday to set up. As the women in the United Methodist Women age, we are able to do less of the work and need you to help us. We hope we can count on YOU!

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UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

On Tuesday, September 4th, Doris Henel entertained the United Methodist Women with a luncheon at her home. The donation requested was \$10. per person which was turned over to the treasurer of the UMW toward our 2012 budget.

The luncheon started with a lobster spread and crackers before they joined together around the table. The first course was Chicken Gnocchi Pasta Soup, followed by a salad with spring greens, chopped tomatoes, feta cheese and a home-style dressing. Chicken Divan, candied sweet potatoes, and cranberry sauce followed, with cake ice cream, strawberries and hot fudge for dessert. Coffee and

tea were served. (The dinner rolls sat on the kitchen counter – forgotten until we were almost finished) Following the luncheon, a short business meeting was held. We missed two of our members: Leona Parker who was in the hospital and Ethel Steiniger who was ill at home.

It was an enjoyable day and one the hostess and guests always look forward to.

AND NOW FOR OUR OCTOBER 2ND MEETING

We will meet in Aldersgate Hall at 12 noon following the Bible Study group meeting at 10:30 a.m.

With a telephone call from Gertrude Baldwin and some great ideas, we have planned our October 2nd meeting. It is called "MEMORIES TO SHARE".

We are asking that each member bring a picture of themselves as a baby or young child, wedding pictures or weddings you took part in (since we probably did not know each other very well at that time), bring your year book from school if you have one, and any old pictures of church events and people from years past. We ask that you bring a sandwich for lunch that your mother made for you when you were a child – maybe a favorite that you took to school or work when you were a little older. We will supply the beverage and dessert.

It will be a fun afternoon and we will all learn a little more about each other by the end of the day. Start looking and thinking about it NOW!

(If you have not been attending the United Methodist Women's meetings, we invite you to join us. We are always looking for more members.)



LORRAINE CARHART HELPS SETTING UP THE RUMMAGE SALE – AND WE APPRECIATE IT!!

HONOR THE CHOIR

On Sunday, September 23th the Nurture Committee recognized the 146th anniversary of the incorporation of the United Methodist Church here in Linden. If there had been any 50 or 25 year members for 2012, they would have been honored along with our church choir. However, this year there are no members that would attain 50 or 25 year membership in our church and Nurture did not want to honor the choir unless Leona Parker could attend. Leona has been in Genesis Nursing Home for therapy for a few weeks and was not scheduled to be discharged by September 23rd. The new date for honoring the Church Choir is now Sunday, October 28th with a Coffee Hour in Aldersgate Hall.

Please mark this date on your calendar. October 28th is also the date that the Dedication of Pledge Cards will be received for the Stewardship financial program for 2013. The Coffee Hour will be hosted by both Stewardship and Nurture.

All are invited!!



WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR CHILDREN

Joy Hinko has been hired by the church to take care of the young children during church services on Sundays. She is available whenever there are children and parents that need this church hour nursery service.

We are here – we just need your children!
A REMINDER – ALL RENTALS OF ALDERSGATE HALL MUST GO THROUGH DONALD BEYER, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. IT IS AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LINDEN. ALL OTHERS WILL PAY \$225. A CONTRACT MUST BE FILLED OUT BY EVERYONE AND TURNED OVER TO DONALD BEYER, 908-862-8686 (WITH A \$100. DEPOSIT IF NOT A MEMBER OF OUR CHURCH).



CROP WALK

The annual Crop Walk sponsored by the Interfaith Council will take place on Sunday, October 7th at 1:00 p.m. in Wilson Park (across from the High School on St. George Ave.) We appreciate it if you walk and get sponsors to sign up and donate money towards feeding the hungry,

However, if you cannot walk we still hope you will get sponsors and support this very worthwhile project.

Carolyn Franz has literature about the Walk and will gladly give you a sign-up form. Let's see the United Methodist Church of Linden have a very successful day and turn over a good sum of money for people in need. Carolyn's number is: 908-486-3792.



ENJOYING AN INTERESTING CONVERSATION!

OCTOBER, 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 7-Board of Trustees (D.Beyer,T.Henel, G.Baldwin,C.Ettel J.Stamer,B.Losyk, W.Hanns)	2 12 Noon - United Methodist Women (bring sandwich & Pictures) 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-Weight Watchers 4:30-Fencing School	3 4:30-Fencing School	4 4:30-Fencing School	5	6 9:30-Fenc.Sch.
7 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship	8 4:30-Fencing School	9 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-Weight Watchers 4:30 -9:30 Fencing Sch.	10 4:30-9:30 – Fencing School	11 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	12	13 12 – 4 pm Class of 1942 70 th Reunion Public Library 9:30-1:30 – Fencing School in gym
14 9:30 AM - Choir 10:30 - Worship KICK OFF FOR STEWARDSHIP	15 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	16 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	17 9:30-SET UP RUMMAGE-HELP NEEDED 4:30-Fencing School	18 4:30-9:30-Fenc.Sch	19 RUMMAGE SALE 9 AM TO 12 NOON	20 9:30-1:30- Fencing School RUMMAGE SALE 9 AM TO 12 NOON
21 9:30 AM – Choir 10:30-Worship	22 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	23 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	24 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	25 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	26	27 9:30-1:30 Fencing Sch. in Gym
28 9:00 – Choir 10:30Worship DEDICATION OF PLEDGE CARDS COFFEE HOUR	29 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	30 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch.	31 4:30-9:30 Fencing School			