

The

MESSENGER

APRIL 2017

ONE GOT OUT!

Father and author Phil Calloway remembers a funny day...

"One sleepy Sunday afternoon when my son was five-years-old, we drove past a cemetery together. Noticing a large pile of dirt beside a newly excavated grave, he pointed and said: "Look, Dad, one got out!" I laughed, but now, every time I pass a graveyard, I'm reminded of the One who got out..."

After all, that is what Easter is all about right? After the ridiculous collection of eggs around the house, the baskets filled with candy and shredded AstroTurf, and the constant pressure of putting together an Easter meal without appearing tired and uninspired, that's what Easter is all about, right?

One got out.

Matthew tells us in chapter 28...

¹After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

One got out.

Think about the lives we have lived. Think about the mistakes we have made. Think about the regrets we have and live with everyday. Think about how those things ensnare us and make us feel like we are living in a prison of our own making. There is shame, heartache, pain, lack of confidence, missing purpose, and a general sense of uselessness.

We try to cover up those feelings. We become busy beavers, overachievers, and compliment receivers. We try to fill every moment of every day so that we don't have even one moment to think about those 'deep down' things which drag us south. As one lady said to me years ago...

"You know Ed I always keep the TV, radio, or stereo on at my house because if it were quiet I would think about all those things that I don't want to deal with...and so I keep my life loud."

Like that lady, our situation may seem inescapable, unconquerable, and irretrievable but, you see, there is good news because...

One got out.

Jesus the Christ, God who became a human, the Saviour of the World, was crucified, died, and was buried. He died so we could live. He let himself bleed for our sins so we didn't have to bleed for them. Our sins, all those things that drag us down which we try to pretend aren't there, were paid for when the Nazarene died on the cross. But he didn't stay in the cemetery...

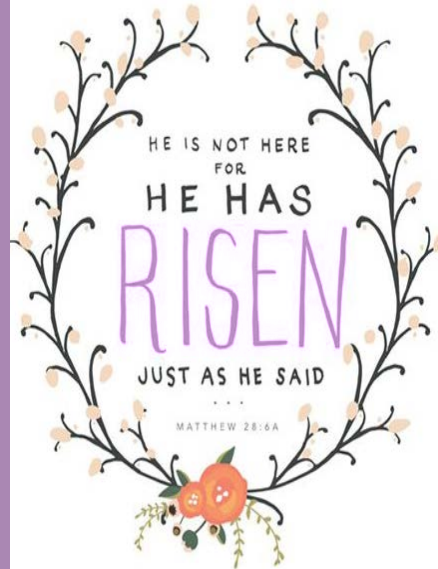
He's the One who got out!

And when He rose from the dead, you and I gained purpose. You and I gained hope, and you and I can face tomorrow because we know the One who holds it!

All because **One (the right One!) got out** of the grave and wants to get into our hearts.

This Easter, won't you let Him in? After all, that's what it's all about.

I love you,
Pastor Ed



Sunday Worship Services and Sunday School

9:00am
Contemporary
(Family Life Center)

10:30am
Traditional
(Sanctuary)

Sunday School
9:00am
Preschool
5th Grade & Adults

10:30am
6th-12th Grade

Youth Group
6:00-8:00pm
Thompson Hall

THE MISSION of our church is to; Invite people of all ages to know Christ; Give them the resources to become Christ's disciples; Create an environment where they are empowered by the Holy Spirit; and Motivate them to do God's will through acts of love and service in both the local and global communities.

**First United Methodist Church
of Toms River**

OUTREACH REPORT

HOPE CENTER REPORT

December's statistics for services given by the Hope Center tDuring the month of January, the Hope Center served 60 households with a total expenditure of \$3,858.75. \$3149.75 was spent to provide 64 nights of Emergency Shelter; 4 families were helped with their utility bills for a total expenditure of \$249.00; 23 families were given gas vouchers for a total expenditure of \$249.00; and 10 households were given ShopRite gift cards totaling \$245.00. Services rendered by the Hope Center's Food Pantry are as follows: 344 families were served consisting of 649 adults and 340 children. During the month of January, they distributed 15, 000 pounds of food.

The Hope Center is constantly looking for volunteers to provide the services of the organization. For example, on April 22nd, they are holding a Gift Auction which needs the following volunteers: 1) volunteers to transport the baskets from the Hope Center to Toms River High School East; 2) volunteers to sell tickets (admission and gift tickets) at the event; 3) volunteers to help set up the Gift Auction area; and 4) volunteers to help clean up the Cafetorium at High School East. If interested in volunteering for this fund raising event, please see Dave Correll, the church's liaison representative to the Hope Center.

Right now they need volunteers in the following areas: 1) in the food distribution area; and 2) to pick up surplus goods from stores that will be distributed to their clients such as bakeries, etc. If interested in volunteering for service in one of these areas, please see Dave Correll.

Did You Know...that there was an increase of 195% for assistance for homeless people when you compared the need for the homeless in 2015 and 2016. People in Ocean County need our help!....Let's be generous and in one way or another help those in need! The Hope Center is one of the ways we can help. The Hope Center is providing more and more services. For example, they now have 2 employees that work at the Hope Center from the Office of the Aging. They are also working hand in hand with Rental Assistance Organizations and exploring new options on how to raise money for those in need.

OPEN ARMS FOOD PANTRY

Open Arms Food Pantry" is a ministry of the Jackson Baptist Church. It is open from Monday through Friday from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. The mission of "Open Arms" is to love, respect, and feed their clients. Eligible clients are sent to the pantry for food by the Ocean County Hunger Relief organization. The clients are hugged and greeted by two servers and then allowed to shop one family at a time. The volunteers develop relationships with their clients which helps the volunteers to pray for and with the clients. Some clients eventually attend church. When the client had finished shopping, prayer is done addressing the client's

needs, while holding hands in a circle with the entire pantry server staff. Food is supplied through various partnerships: church members financial and material donations, grateful clients wishing to "give back," Ocean County Hunger Relief, Monmouth-Ocean Food Bank, Shop-Rite of Jackson, Wawa, and the First United Methodist Church of Toms River.

In 2016: 1) 63095 pounds of food were distributed to 1959 clients, 2) 73% of the food was donated and 27% was purchased,' and 3) 2330 pounds of food was donated by the First United Methodist Church of Toms River, which was equal to 5.1% of the donated food distributed.

FUMC OUTREACH

The Paula Brown Soup Kitchen will be providing dinner for needy people in Ocean County on April 18 and April 25 from 3-5 P.M. This is one of the great outreach ministries of our church. Please support this Biblical ministry with your donations of foodstuffs when you see the Paula Brown Soup Kitchen tables in the Family Life Center and Narthex.

The United Methodist Women's Rummage Sale has just ended and a big thank you goes out to all the people that donated goods to make it possible. Your donations allow many people to buy the clothing, etc. that they need. A big thank you goes out to all the people that helped set up and tear down the 2017 Spring Rummage Sale. Remember all the money made goes to UMW missions.

The United Methodist Men held a breakfast on Saturday, March 11th and were able to donate 300 dollars to our Educational Assistance Fund. All profits from each breakfast go to a mission or church sponsored program. Please come out and enjoy a great breakfast while providing funds for UMM missions.

The food collection for the needy in Ocean County will be held on Sunday, April 9th. If you attend the Contemporary Service, please place your donations on the table provided in the Family Life Center. If you attend the Traditional Service, please place your donations in the cart located in the coatroom next to the Narthex. The special hygiene items of the month are baby diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, and baby food.

Easter is a time that we commemorate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let each one of us during this season practice one of the major lessons taught by our Lord....."Love Your Neighbor!" How can you do that.....BY SUPPORTING ONE OR ALL OF OUR OUTREACH MINISTRIES. Prove that the Lord is ALIVE! Become a disciple by caring about others, doing for others, praying for others, and reading and practicing the lessons Jesus taught us in the Holy Bible. With Jesus' authority, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!! The US Circle, the U.M.W's teenage circle, chose Big Brother, Big Sister as their Community Outreach Service. BBBS of

Outreach Report continued...

Ocean County was in need of single snacks and drinks for their two after school programs. These two after school programs serve between 80-100 snacks and drinks per week. Our girls turned to their church family for support in providing these

items. The church family responded with 996 single snacks and 396 drinks at a time when BBBS ran out of snacks. Way to go GIRLS!!!

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

DEFINITION OF THE FOUR T'S OF STEWARDSHIP

A Biblical definition of stewardship is "having dominion over the works of God." The definition of stewardship can be broken down into four components. The Four Ts of Stewardship: time, talent, temple, and treasure. God has given us our life and our time to manage as part of us being His steward. The definition of stewardship includes caring for all things that God has given us. This includes our bodies. The definition of stewardship also includes the making use of our talents and abilities that God has given to us. As God's chosen representatives, his stewards, God has also given us material things to faithfully administer for His glory.

THE FOUR T'S OF STEWARDSHIP

1. **TIME** - God has given our life and our time to manage as part of us being his steward. As good stewards, he expects us to manage our time, our life, according to His will.
2. **TEMPLE** - The definition of stewardship includes caring for all things that God has given us. This includes our bodies. As Christians, our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit. If our bodies are to be the temples of the Holy Spirit, then it goes without saying that we should not defile our bodies with any kind of sin.
3. **TALENTS** - The definition of stewardship also includes the making use of the talents and abilities that God has given us. God has even given us unique talents and he desires us to put our talents to good use. As Christians, we can even say that God has ordained us with our unique talents to do His good works.
4. **TREASURE** - A key definition of stewardship is being accountable for God's treasures. The Holy Bible tells us that all things are created by God and all things are God's. As God's chosen representatives, His stewards, God has given us material things to faithfully administer for His glory.

Read this John Wesley Story—When John Wesley visited his congregations, he would question his assistants as to their progress in the faith. He would often ask if their Christianity had affected their pockets? That can be an acid test of our values.

During this Resurrection season, we must remember the price that Jesus Christ paid for us. He gave His life at the age of 33 so that we could overcome sin and spend life eternal with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Let's show our gratitude for His sacrifice by making better use of our time, better use of our talents, better use of our temple, and better use of our treasure. Remember....in everything we do.....TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

AFTER 43 YEARS...

Yes, after 43 years of extremely dedicated service to First Church Judy Iovino, our Administrative Assistant, has decided it is time to retire. Judy's commitment to the Church, and the vast quantity of knowledge and history she has in her head are immeasurable!! As I have said in the past, I cannot tell you the number of times someone has asked me a question and my answer had been, "ask Judy, she will know."

While no firm date has been established for Judy's departure the search for her replacement is beginning. Judy has agreed to remain on the job and work with her replacement for a suitable amount of time to make this transition as smooth as possible. If you know of someone interested in the position have them forward their résumé to me at the Church or email it to fmuller6@comcast.net.

When you see Judy please remember to say thank you!

Fred Muller,
Staff Parish Relations Committee member to participate.



EARLY HISTORY OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TOMS RIVER OUR SECOND CHURCH BUILDING (1854-1874)

In 1850 Toms River became the county seat of the new county of Ocean. The historic "1850 Courthouse" was built and still stands as part of the courthouse complex.

The Jersey Shore enjoyed a boom. The growing population of New York City created an unprecedented demand for cord wood and charcoal. Wood was burned into charcoal in the vicinity of Double Trouble and then moved to the river's edge and loaded on schooners.

The town and population were growing rapidly. There was a need for a larger church building. In May 1853 the Trustees passed a resolution to buy land for a new meeting house. They agreed not to start the building until at least \$800 was subscribed. The money was raised by September. Where better to put the new church than next to the new courthouse. The church was built on the northwest corner of Washington and Hooper. The church was dedicated in 1854, and the approximate cost was \$3,500 with \$1300 remaining to be paid.

The new church was more pretentious than the first. It measured 38 X 50 feet and held three times as many people. The white, modified colonial style had narrow windows and a colonnade front. The steeple held the town's first church bell (cast in 1853 in Troy, New York). It rang at 8:45 A.M. and 9:45 A.M. on Sunday mornings and before evening services on Thursdays. Inside, the windows and door frames were trimmed with black walnut. There were 19 rows of pews, with a center aisle. Oil lamps on metal brackets provided the light for the church.

Keeping the church clean must have been a problem because a new sexton was hired at every trustees meeting for years. Finally, in 1859 a woman was hired and there were no more changes. Often there were penny collections to pay her.

In 1861 the first permanent minister, Benjamin Sharp, was appointed to the church. Toms River now became the head of the circuit of small settlements where Methodism had spread. The new circuit included churches at Cedar Grove, Kettle Creek, Bayville, Pleasant Plains, Whitesville and Lanoka Harbor.

The congregation met for worship and divided into classes for religious training. It was the class leaders responsibility to inquire about each member's spiritual well-being and to counsel them if they were not living up to their Christian commitments. Later, when a pastor was in charge, it was his duty to carry on the work of the class leaders. Records show that pastors checked on members who were frequenting taverns.

Because Methodist pastors are assigned their work for the coming year at Annual Conference there were 8 pastors between 1861 and 1875. (John Wesley held the first annual meeting in 1744. As the Methodist Church grew, the meeting was divided into Conferences, each headed by a bishop and holding its own Annual Conference).

(TO BE CONTINUED)

FIRST QUARTER FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Church Council approved the 2017 budget of \$660,423. at its February 21st meeting. It is an aggressive budget which incorporates the vision for more outreach and ministry commitments. The Finance Committee is grateful for the estimate of giving cards received. 133 cards were received this year compared to 96 received in 2016. The submission of the estimate of giving card helps immensely in the budgeting process.

Estimate of giving breakdown: \$10,000.+ (5); 5,000.-9,999 (10); 1,000. – 4,999 (72); 501-999 (24); 1. – 500. (22)

Additional income: The Harold & Caroline Schmul Endowment Fund \$36,000 // Chestnut Hill Nursery School \$42,000.

Where will the fund go? 66% to ministry. 34% covers utilities, maintenance/supplies and FLC loan payments.

First Church continues to pledge financial support to Caregivers and Hope Center for the first quarter. Both organizations provide vital and sometimes life changing services to those they serve. Your generous support to the quarterly mission makes a difference in people's lives.

Should you have a concern or questions, please feel free to speak with a Finance Committee member: Elaine Fischer, Jim Agans, Chris Heale, Arnold Egeland, Michael Maloney, Lenore Hurley and Heike Graef.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS FROM OUR PAST

When First Church moved in 1973 from its original location in downtown Toms River a part of the history of the old church also moved to 129 Chestnut Street. A total of 11 leaded stained glass memorial windows were moved to our present location. Three (3) of the windows have been permanently installed in the Education wing of the church. However, for the past 44 years eight (8) of the windows have been safely stored, and are currently in the garage.

The Board of Trustees, because of the need for additional storage space in the garage, has decided that the eight (8) leaded windows must be removed. Our hope is that members of the congregation might wish to have a piece of our history by purchasing a window. It is the Trustees wish that in this way these windows can be preserved.

You can see individual pictures of each window thanks to the photography talents of Jeff Sayre on the link provided. click here. All of the windows are encased in their original frames. The eight (8) windows were commissioned and installed in 1949. The windows, all depicting Biblical characters, are marked either "in honor of or in memory of" indicating who gave them.

The Trustees are offering these windows to anyone in the congregation for \$200.00 per window or best offer. If interested please contact the Church office at 732-349-8155.



PAUL window

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Pittenger



UMW BOOK CLUB

These books are ready to borrow! They are in the Wilden Room with information about the “reading program” and instructions for signing out a book.

Education for Mission

- Good God, Lousy World, and Me
- Unbound

Leadership Development

- Tough Cookies (about Girl Scouts, not Baking)
- I am Malal
- The Andrew Paradigm

Nurturing for Community

- I Love Growing Older, But I'll Never Grow Old

Social Action

- Green Church: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rejoice!
- Why Africa Matters
- Behind the Kitchen Door
- Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption

Spiritual Growth

- Silence and Other Surprising Invitations of Lent
- Key United Methodist Beliefs

Meg Muller has read Behind the Kitchen Door and says, “Race, Discrimination and Slavery! Do you ever think what is going on behind the scenes in New York City’s finest restaurants? All of the above. The restaurant business is a deep pit that many are in and will never get out. Never would have thought! A great read.”

For more information see Becky Lemaster or a circle leader.

MEMORIALS GIVEN

TO MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of MARTIN MOEN by Kathryn Muller and John & Edna Fischer

DEATHS

PATRICK McGOVERN, joined FUMCTR 10.26.86 and died 2.16.17

THANK YOU

How can I thank you - you have been there when I really needed you during my two angiosarcoma operations in January at Sloan-Kettering and the radiation therapy during February and March.

It hasn't been easy, but Bill and I received so many delicious meals when I did not feel like preparing them. Over 100 of you sent cards to brighten my days. The flowers were beautiful, many calls and other expressions of concern. My church family really took care of me!

I have three weeks of radiation remaining, the hardest I am told. So - continue to pray for me—I know prayers work so don't let me down!

With grateful appreciation...
Mary Bode

THE MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE

now has in its possession, a beautiful wooden container for cremains. Thanks to the fine workmanship of Randy Smith, this container is available for the cremains of loved ones during a Memorial Service/ Funeral in our Sanctuary This wooden container compliments the décor of our Sanctuary. Having this available will save families from buying or renting a container if the family wishes the cremains to be in the Sanctuary during the service with burial of the cremains to follow. For any questions, please contact Nancy Kaulback..

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 9am Emmaus Men & Women 10-1 pm Rummage "Bag" Sale FLC 1 pm Clean up begins!
2	3 9am Crafters - TH 6-8pm First Place 4 Health TH 7pm UMW Exec. Board Room 4	4	5 7pm Lenten Bible Study #5 TH	6	7 10am Breakfast Setup FLC	8 8-10am Breakfast FLC (Proceeds youth mission trip)
9 Non-perishable Food/Hygiene Items Collection FLC/NARTHEX	10 6-8pm First Place 4 Health TH (CHNS closed)	11 10am Knitters TH 6:30pm UMMEN TH (CHNS closed)	12 3-5pm Nine Patchers TH 7pm Esther Circle TH (CHNS closed)	13 7pm Holy Thursday Service Communion "Upper Room" style FLC (CHNS closed)	14 (CHNS closed)	15 9:30pm Worship Comm. decorating for Easter MAY MESSENGER DEADLINE
16	17 9am Crafters - TH 6-8pm First Place 4 Health TH (CHNS & Church office closed)	18 3-5pm Soup Kitchen FLC 6:30pm Board of Trustees WR	19	20 Church Scholarship application deadline	21 Sr High Youth Retreat FLC & TH	22 9am Emmaus Men WR Sr High Youth Retreat FLC & TH
23 Sr High Youth Retreat FLC & TH	24 Sarah Circle TH 6-8pm First Place 4 Health TH	25 10am Knitters TH 3-5pm Soup Kitchen FLC 7pm Church Council TH	26 3-5pm Nine Patchers TH	27	28	29 UMWomen Spa Day FLC

MONDAYS

7:00 pm Boy Scouts
 Family Life Center

TUESDAYS

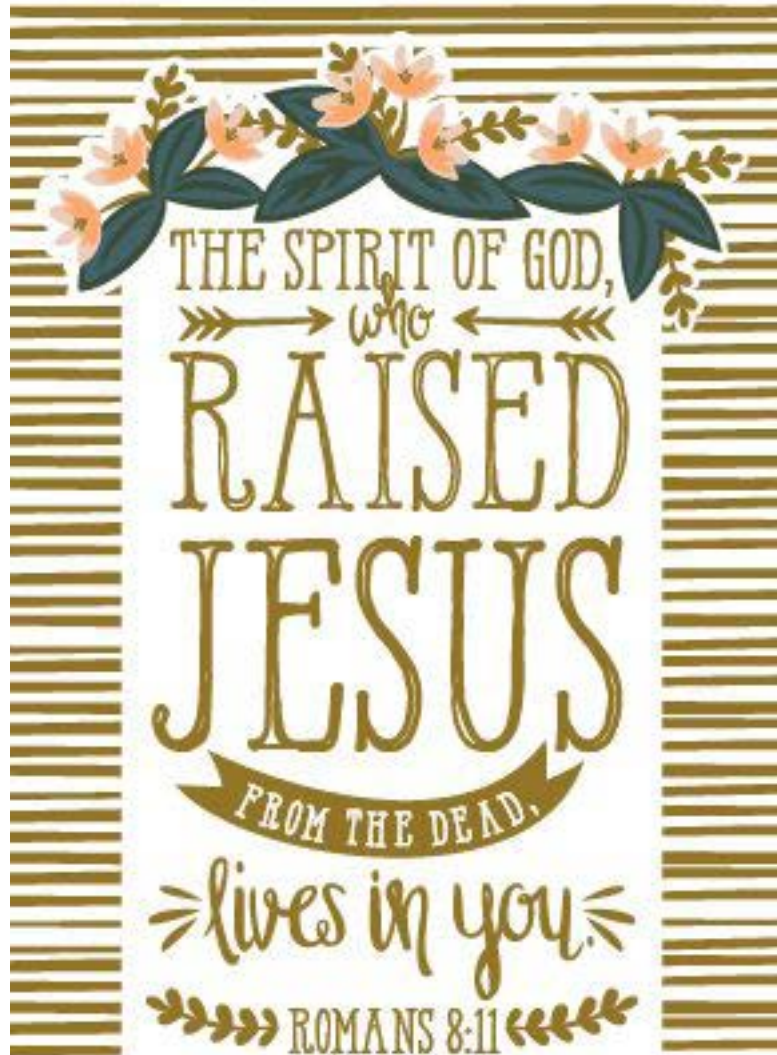
7:00 pm Praise Team
 Family Life Center

WEDNESDAYS

4:30 Youth Choir (Grades 7-12)
 5:30 Genesis Choir (Grades 2-6)
 Choir Room

THURSDAYS

6:30 Fellowship Bells, Choir Room
 7:30 Sanctuary Choir, Choir Room



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OF TOMS RIVER**

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The Messenger is posted monthly (except
Dec/Jan & Summer (June, July, Aug) on the
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