

THE MILLION DOLLAR ROAD

Leith Anderson tells about an interesting story about a pricey road way:

"In Western Colorado there is a road called the Million Dollar Highway. My guess is that both tourists and even most of the people who live on the western slope don't know how this road got its name.

They probably assume it got its name because it was expensive to build. That's not correct—although it probably was expensive to build because it runs through very difficult terrain and at a high altitude. The real reason it's called the Million Dollar Highway is because waste material from the ore in gold mines was used as the bed for that highway, and not all the gold dust and nuggets were removed by the mining processes available at the time.

*As a result, there is a partial roadbed of gold that is probably worth a lot more than a million dollars! **It isn't the cost that gave it its name, but rather what is inside it...**"*

I'm wondering where you and I get our value in life. Is it based on who we know, or what we are able to do, or to whom we are related? Or maybe it's based on who we don't know or what we can't do? People have the tendency to base their worth on their own efforts.

Thankfully, God doesn't do anything of the sort.

As Christians, we don't have to worry about what we do or don't achieve on our own. That's not from where our value comes. You see, the world focuses on the word, "do." However, Jesus focuses on the word, "done." And there is a lot of difference between those words than just an 'n' and an 'e.'

Think about what Jesus has done for us...

He has created us...done.
 He came back for us...done.
 He died for our sins...done.
 He has risen from the dead...done.
 He has chosen to live in our hearts...done.
 He has all the answers we need...done.
 He loves us without measure...very, very done.

And if all that "done-ness" lives in our hearts, what else is there to be concerned about?

You're right if you responded, "Nothing."

It's not what we do that gives us value, but rather who is in us that counts. As Christians, Jesus dwells deeply in us and our value in this life is totally dependent on his love. He's already done it. Don't worry about earning God's love, you can't. You already have it...and that gives you immeasurable value!

I love you and I'm done,
Pastor Ed

*For with
 God nothing
 shall be
 impossible.*

Luke 1:37

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

The fall of the year gives us many opportunities to help our needy citizens of Ocean County. Below is a list of opportunities to help the needy and also provide funding for many charities and church expenses:

1. The next food collection for the Hope Center and Jackson Baptist Church will be held on Sunday, September 10th. Congregants that attend the Contemporary Service should place their donations on the table provided in the Family Life Center and congregants that attend the Traditional Service should place their donations in the basket found in the coatroom next to the Narthex. Personal hygiene items should be placed in the container provided in the same room. Personal hygiene items needed in September are as follows: 1) bars of soap; 2) toilet tissue; 3) shampoo, 4) deodorant; 5) baby diapers; and 6) baby wipes. The Hope Center thanks our church for their generous giving each month.

2. The Paula Brown Soup Kitchen will be serving dinner to the needy on Tuesday, September 19th and Tuesday, September 26th from 3 to 4:30 P.M. in the Family Life Center. Please go to the tables when provided that are collecting donations for the soup kitchens. It's amazing what we do for the needy of Ocean County with our personal donations of food. Betty Lou Pinto and Kris Olsen are in charge of the soup kitchens.

3. The fall Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7 in the Family Life Center. You can start bringing your donations to church on Sunday, October 1. Please go through your clothing and other possessions to help make this Rummage Sale one of the best. Money made from the sale goes to UMW missions and church expenses. Volunteers are also needed to help set up the Rummage Sale. Sue Malinowski and Candy Vesce are in charge of this event.

4. The United Methodist Men will be holding their next breakfast on Saturday, September 9th from 8 to 10 A.M. Profit from the breakfast goes to charities and church expenses. The United Methodist Women will also be holding a mum sale during the same time as the breakfast is taking place. Come on out and eat a fine breakfast and buy your fall flowers. All UMW profits go to mission work and church expenses.

5. IT'S BACK!-----The Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project makes its return this year at FUMC. Shoe boxes will be given out on Sunday, October 8th and Sunday, October 15th to those congregants who want to send children who don't receive gifts at Christmas a shoe box full of goodies....in fact.... they might not receive a gift during their entire life. Just think of the smile on the face of the child who opens up the shoe box that you give him/her. The shoe boxes will be collected

in November. Dan and Barbara Clinch are in charge of this project. If you have any questions concerning this project, please call Barbara Clinch at 732-244-2547.

6. The Holly Berry Bazaar, sponsored by the UMW, will be held on Saturday, November 4th in the Family Life Center. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year. On sale are seasonal holiday items, jewelry, clothing, books, compact discs, and sundry items. Put yourself in a holiday mood and come to the Holly Berry Bazaar.. Jane Laub is in charge of this fun-filled event. Lunch can also be purchased at the Bazaar. All profits made are used to fund UMW missions and church expenses.

7. During the month of November our glove, mittens, scarf, and pajama collection is held and donations are used to decorate Christmas trees located in the Narthex and Family Life Center. These donations are given to children to keep them warm during the cold months of the year. Kathy Newsome is in charge of this "Giving Tree" event which provides for a need that benefits the needy children of Ocean County.

8. In early December the United Methodist Women sponsor their annual fruit collection event that provides fruit for our homebound members who can't attend services at FUMC of T.R. These baskets are adorned with fruit, Christmas magnets, candy, and a greeting card. When delivered by a member of the church, it makes the recipient's day plus it shows them that we care and love them. Dianna Correll is in charge of this project.

9. During the month of December we help the Hope Center provide Christmas Gifts for needy children in Ocean County. These are the children that would not have a gift under their tree on Christmas morning. For younger children we ask for a donation of toys, games, arts and crafts, dolls, and action figures. For teenagers we ask for a donation of 15 dollar gift certificates to the movies, Applebees, fast food restaurants, and clothing stores. We have done this for the past 7 years and we know it puts a smile on the face of a needy child. The Hope Center distributes the gifts to needy families on a Shopping Night Excursion.

10. During the month of November we hold a Harvest Home food collection with the purpose of providing foodstuffs for Thanksgiving weekend to needy people in Ocean County. It's a blessing when someone doesn't have to worry about food on the table.

Invite a friend/s to our Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve Service. It's guaranteed to be a blessing in his/her/their life/lives.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER

THE TREASURE PRINCIPLE, AUTHOR- RANDY ALCORN

Someone once said that we are so absorbed in “getting what’s ours” that we miss what brings the real blessings and joy—giving God what’s His. Giving is doing what we were made for: loving God and our neighbors (Matthew 22: 36-40). Giving boldly affirms Christ’s lordship. It is a blessed act that leads to joy. A graphic example of this joy is found in Charles Dickens’s classic story A Christmas Carol. When the story begins, Ebenezer Scrooge is wealthy and miserable. He’s caustic, complaining, and horrendously greedy. After encounters with three spirits on Christmas Day, he is given a second chance at life. After the encounters, this was a picture of the transformed Ebenezer Scrooge: “He went to church, and walked about the streets, and watched the people hurrying to and fro, and patted children on the head, and questioned beggars, and looked down into the kitchens of houses, and up to the windows; and found that everything could yield him pleasure. He had never dreamed that any walk—that anything—could give him so much happiness.

After his transformation, Scrooge walks through the streets of London, freely distributing his wealth to the needy. He’s giddy with delight. He, who only yesterday had scoffed at the idea of charity, now takes his greatest pleasure in giving. On the story’s final page, Dickens says of Scrooge: Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh, and little heeded them....His own heart laughed, and that was quite enough for him. And it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well.”

What was the source of Scrooge’s Transformation? Gaining an eternal perspective. Through supernatural intervention, Scrooge was allowed to see his past, present, and still-changeable future through the eyes of eternity. Let’s ask God for the same insight in our lives. Ebenezer Scrooge leaped for joy on the streets of London because he discovered the life-giving antidote to the materialism that had poisoned his soul. Scrooge learned the TREASURE PRINCIPLE---the secret of joyful giving. Do you want to experience this kind of joy? Jesus invites you to transfer your assets from earth to heaven. He invites you to give humbly, generously, and frequently to God’s work. Excel in giving so you can please God, serve others, and enjoy treasures in heaven. Please embrace God’s invitation to “Give and it will be given to you.” (Luke 6:38)

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS *TEAM VITAL*?

I’m glad you asked! *Team Vital* is a First Church initiative, in concert with our GNJ Annual Conference, which endeavors to focus on five areas of local church health. Those areas are:

1. Dynamic Worship
2. Compelling Mission
3. Making Disciples
4. Generous Giving
5. Strengthening Small Group Life

Since last fall, your *Team Vital* team has been examining the possibilities at First Church in these five areas. Currently, we are establishing objectives based on outcomes that we would like to see our spiritual family experience. It is a dynamic process that listens, encourages, and sees a bright future for our fellowship!

Since the last *Messenger* update, our Team has:

- Presented and had approved by Church Council a **New Mission Statement** (see the front page of the announcement section of the bulletin)
- Begun preparations for **HOME COMING Sunday on October 15th**. This great day includes one combined worship service in the sanctuary at 10:30am; a delicious luncheon to follow; and lots of opportunities to get connected to the First Church family! Watch the church publications for details.
- Moved forward in the planning of a dynamic **Discipleship Ministry** that will grow and evolve over the next few years. As we always say, we must make MORE and BETTER DISCIPLES! This will help to get us to that goal!

If you’d like to see what happens at Team Vital, you are always welcome. Just check the calendar to see when we meet. We’d love to see you.

Questions? Ask a member of the *Team Vital* team: *Sonia Butler, Scott Bilquist, Mary Bode, Charlie Burch, Dave Correll, Bob Ferrara, Kim General (team leader), Nancy Kaulback, Don Kaulback, Traci Maloney, Fred Muller, Kathy Newsome, Judy Heale, Pam Rose, Roger Shapley, Wes Ellis, Ed Davis.*

Faithfully,

Pastor Ed



EARLY HISTORY OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TOMS RIVER

TWENTIETH CENTURY PART ONE

The congregation began the 20th Century, thanking our Lord for His protection, for freedom to worship and for our Church and Sunday School. The editor of the New Jersey Courier, a member of our church, wrote, "None of us would want to live in a churchless town. We all appreciate what the church does, and we love and honor it for what it represents--the people of God on earth. " In 1900 we had 162 members.

In 1917 our country was fighting "the war to end all wars." Toms River was busy training the National Guard, selling Liberty Bonds, and working with the Red Cross while our young men were enlisting. The church worked to cheer and console families and friends as our "dough boys" went across the Atlantic to a war where gas was used as a weapon. A Roll of Honor was hung in the church sanctuary for the boys leaving for military service.

After the war a new young pastor and his wife understood the many problems of the young soldiers readjusting. Church records show he earned his nickname as the "marrying preacher."

In 1922 the Service Class, young ladies in the Sunday School, raised \$200 to pay for the installation of electricity in the sanctuary. We purchased 126 new hymnals and our old hymnals were given to the Whiting M.E. Church. A bulletin board was put in front of the church giving the time of services. About this time electricity and water were added to the parsonage. The sheds were removed and toilets installed.

In 1928 we celebrated our 100th anniversary. A notice to the congregation from the pastor read in part: "Who of today can tell what measure of devotion made possible that first church home in Toms River?...Who can measure the good work done by this church in the past century?...Who knows how far the influence of this church may have reached the world? (As a Body of Christians, we are already making a difference!)

Next Month--The Depression Years

REPORT OF THE 2017

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

I found my first Annual Conference exciting and a little overwhelming. It began with the procession of all the United Methodist ministers in Greater New Jersey. They were robed and everyone began singing, "We're Marching to Zion". The procession seemed endless, but thrilling.

Bishop Schol's address set the tone of the conference: "Rejoice! God is not through with us! There is a future with hope!" The Ordination of Deacons and Elders and Commissioning of Orders was very moving as these future leaders of our church reached these milestones. The Service of Remembrance was beautiful as we honored those whose work is completed.

The business portions of the conference ranged from votes to enable the trustees to conduct our business during the coming year to the closing of three churches and the future management of cemeteries owned by the Annual Conference (including one on Whitesville Road in Jackson).

A sampling of some of the business:

"United Methodist Homes" are now known as a part of "United Methodist Communities". Asbury Manor has been sold. The decision was made because the costs of updating the old facility were becoming prohibitive. It was decided that it would be less traumatic for the residents to remain where they are. A special fund has been established to continue to honor our commitment that none of these residents will ever have to leave for financial reasons.

"A Future With Hope" has built or repaired 254 homes at this time. We are ahead of schedule for our goal. We have housed and used 11,000 volunteers from 36 states and Canada. We have raised more than \$16 million toward Sandy recovery. We are one of the last recovery groups still working with Sandy victims. There are still 3000 recovering.

The Camping Ministry plans to continue the Pinelands Center and Aldersgate Center, expanding the program's conferences, retreats and making other program changes as are appropriate to the twenty first century.

There is a new formula for local church apportionments. (This is the amount assigned to each church for the various shared ministries.) The goal is to stabilize the amount at 15.4%. The amount will go down until that goal is met. Overall the apportionment of 95% of the churches will go down.

A presenter explained how Wespath (formerly the General Board of Pensions) followed the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church and Global Megatrends to determine investments. An example is investing in a company which makes solar lanterns used in areas without electricity. Wespath is the largest faith-based pension fund in the world and among the top 100 pension funds in the United States. The United Methodist clergy funds are managed by Westpath.

During one afternoon many participants packed 30,000 preserved meals for use in disaster areas.

Cokesbury had a small bookshop set up and I was able to buy a copy of the 2016 Book of Discipline.

Thank you for sending me as your representative. The conference made me very proud to be a United Methodist. If you have any questions or would like more information about the conference, please see me.

—Sonia Butler, *Lay Member to Annual Conference*



WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR LABOR DAY?

HOW ABOUT A GIFT TO YOUR CHURCH AS PART OF THIS CELEBRATION?

Labor Day is designed to honor and remember those whose lives have made a positive impact on our country and our Church through their labors. Since the beginning of the Permanent Endowment Fund, members and friends have donated \$562,257.28, much of it in honor/memory of Church's Saints. These donations are invested and only the earnings are used in the work of the Kingdom. Earnings have allowed the Church to receive \$35,000 this year for its use in our Church's Mission.

In addition to cash, members and friends have the Permanent Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of their wills, life insurance, and gift annuities. Also, some have given Stock because it has an additional advantage of saving "capital gains taxes." The future of our Permanent Endowment looks bright.

Recently we have been highlighting the gift annuity since it allows a person(s) to receive a high rate of return on their gift until they no longer need it; at the time their gift comes to the Permanent Endowment Fund. We do have a booklet on this topic which is available explaining this type of gift in more detail. A gift annuity is an agreement between an individual(s) and the First United Methodist Church Toms River. The individual(s) can benefit by receiving lifetime payments that may be tax-free or taxed at lower rates than other income. Also, the donor(s) may enjoy income, gift, and estate tax savings as well as favorable treatment of capital gains. The payments to the donor(s) are based on the age of the donor(s) and once established remains the same each year. For instance, a person who is 77 years old will receive each year 6.2% of the amount donated. The Permanent Endowment Fund receives the remainder of the gift after payments to the donor(s) ceases.

Any member of our Church's endowment committee will be happy to discuss the most beneficial way for you to make a gift. They are Jere Williams, Chair, Frank Strucki, Treasurer, Mary Bode, Chris Christensen, Jim Graef, Peter Rich, Sibyl Walczak, and Bob Wahlers.

Members and friends donating or arranging for a gift in the future of \$5,000 or more, become members of First United Methodist Church Toms River Heritage Society named in honor of Rev Dr Harold Schmul and Carolyn Schmul. Anyone can join by just letting a committee member of their gift or planned gift.

JUDY IOVINO, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AT 43...

No, not 43 years old—43 years of extremely competent, unmatched and incredibly dedicated service as the Administrative Assistant of First Church. The Church has a written history of almost 200 years and we all can feel confident in saying that Judy's tenure in her position must be the longest of any employee in that span of history! The Administrative Assistant is most often the first person one meets when visiting the Church during the week. Judy always met everyone with a pleasant smile and a greeting.

Judy's knowledge of the history, membership and organization of the Church have been, and will continue to be, an immeasurable resource to staff, committees and individuals. Very often when someone is asked a question the immediate response is, "ask Judy, she will know."

Join us on Sunday, September 10th following each service, to thank Judy, celebrate her years of service and wish her well in her retirement!

PRAY FOR HOMECOMING SUNDAY!!

October 15, 2017, 10:30am

- One Combined Service in the Sanctuary at 10:30am

- Luncheon to Follow

- Great Opportunities to Discover How to Get Connected to the First Church Family

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS!!

UMW BOOK CLUB

Start something new this Fall.
Join the UMW Book Club.

You can begin by reading one book from the "Education for Mission Section". There are at least 3 ways you can get the books:

THE CHURCH LIBRARY (THE WHILDEN ROOM)

Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land
The author's pilgrimage helped her form faith questions.

Unbound: the Transformative Power of Youth Mission Trips
Many of you involved in ARMY may like this one.

OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY

The Dressmaker of Khair Khane

The Underground Girls of Kabul
+7 more (see list in Whilden Room)

E-BOOKS

Faith Ed
Teaching about Religion in an Age of Intolerance

Boundless: What Global Expressions of Faith Teach Us about Following Jesus

And many more.

For more information talk to Becky Lemasters.

THANK YOU

The General Family would like to express our deep appreciation to our church family for your prayers, your love and your support throughout Jack's illness and passing.

We are truly grateful to all of you.
Marge, John, Kim and Dean

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

An adult Sunday school class meets Sunday mornings at 9am in room 4. All are welcome. We begin with a half hour video, followed by discussion. This Fall's topic is Jesus and His Jewish Influences. Classes begin Septe. 10th.

MEMORIALS GIVEN

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Joan Kennedy by Ruth Circle

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

In memory of John General by Linda J. Hendrickson. In memory of Ellen Hendrickson by the Praise Team and Bob & Gail Auer

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUND

In memory of Pati Rubino's mother, Cecelia Murtha by Heike & Jim Graef. In memory of John General by Chris & Judy Heale, Heike & Jim Graef, Jim & Kay Agans and Jon & Pam Rice. In memory of Dave Correll's sister by Jim & Heike Graef. In memory of John Fischer III By Jim & Kay Agans

YOUTH MINISTRY FUND

In memory of Pati Rubino's mother, Cecelia Murtha by the Ruth Circle. In honor of Youth Week By Jay & Kathy Latshaw, Pam & George Rice and Frank & Donna Mann

HEATH BUTLER YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Pati Rubino's mother, Cecelia Murtha by church friends

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of John General by Mary Miske, Mary & Bill Bode, Don & Nancy Kaulback, Dan & Barbara Clinch, Lenore Hurley, Dolores & William Docarmo, Mary Ann Phipps, Swee & Sing Chan, Lee & Kee Lim, Judy Dean, Gail & Bob Auer, Pam & Jon Rice, Jere & Beverly Williams, Pete & Liz Mitchell, Carol Jane Koch, Toms River High School North Faculty Sunshine Club, Barbara Eckert, Edward & Janet Rakoskie, Sonia Butler, Dorothy G. Burrell, Charles & Joan Alt. In memory of Thelma Matthews, mother of Judy Iovino, by Rev. Dr. Harold E. & Caroline Schmul. In memory of John Fischer III by Mary & Bill Bode, Dan & Barbara Clinch, Marge General, Jim & Kaye Agans, Sonia Butler, Lenore Hurley, Heike Graef and Mary Miske. In memory of Fred Richardette Jr. by Bob & Gail Auer and Judy Dean

BAPTISMS

BONNIE IRENE ELLIS, daughter of Wes & Amanda Ellis, baptized on 5.28.17

MOLLY LEE BRODBECK and MADDILYN OLIVIA BRODBECK, twin daughters of Carl & Michelle Brodbeck on 7.2.17

BIRTHS

CLAIRE JOSEPHINE ATKINS, DAUGHTER OF ELIZABETH (COTTRELL) & TOM Atkins, born 5.21.17

DEATHS

MARJORIE ESTELL joined FUMCTR 2.3.57 and died 6.2.17

JOHN GENERAL joined FUMCTR 10.17.65 and died 6.13.17

JOAN C. KENNEDY joined FUMCTR 4.24.77 and died 6.24.17

JOHN FISCHER III joined FUMCTR 4.10.49 and died 7.25.17

ELLEN HENDRICKSON (Billy Hendrickson's mom)

FRED RICHARDETTE JR. (Son of Rev. Fred & Ruthann Richardette) died 8.12.17

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2 9am Emmaus Men & Women
3	4	5 7pm PRAISE TEAM	6	7	8 10am BREAKFAST SETUP	9 8-10am Breakfast FLC (proceeds to Church Property UMW Flower sale)
10 Non-perishable Food/Hygiene Items Collection FLC/NARTHEX	11 9am Crafters TH 7pm Boy Scouts	12 10am -Knitters TH 6:30pm UMMEN Meeting & Bible Study TH 4pm Phoebe Circle at Kathy Newsome's	13 3-5pm 9 Patchers TH	14	15	16
17	18 9am Crafters TH 7pm Finance Comm. WR	19 3-5pm Soup Kitchen FLC 6:30pm Board of Trustees WR	20	21 6:30pm CHNS Board Meeting WR	22	23 9am Emmaus Men WR
24	25 11am Sarah Circle TH	26 10am Knitters TH 3-5pm Soup Kitchen FLC 7pm Church Council TH	27 3-5pm 9 Patchers TH	28	29	29

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)
Choir Room

THURSDAYS

7:30 Sanctuary Choir
Choir Room



Hosea 6:3

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF TOMS RIVER**

129 Chestnut Street
Toms River, NJ 08753
(732)349-8155
Email: fumctr@verizon.net
Website: www.fumctr.com

FUMCTR STAFF

Ed Davis, Senior Pastor
Wes Ellis, Associate Pastor
Linda J. Hendrickson, Director of Music
Dr. Harold E. Schmul II, Pastor Emeritus
Kathy Newsome, Lay Leader
Paula Smith, Administrative Assistant
Kimberly Dillon, Nursery School Director

CHESTNUT HILL NURSERY SCHOOL

Phone: (732)286-9388
Email: chns1@verizon.net
Website: chestnuthillnurseryschool.com

The Messenger is posted monthly (except
Dec/Jan & Summer (June, July, Aug) on the
FUMCTR website @ www.fumctr.org.

Messenger Designer, Carrie Trotman
Email: carrie@zoeydesigned.com