

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 2

Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20; Psalm 19
 Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

October 9

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6,19-23
 Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

October 16

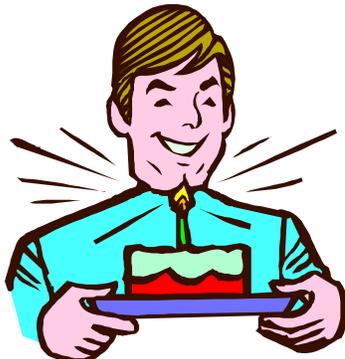
Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99
 I Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

October 23

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6,13-17
 I Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 27:34-46

October 30

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7,33-37
 I Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO:

- | | |
|-------------------|----|
| Gertrude Kiely | 3 |
| Keith Martinson | 5 |
| William Harty | 5 |
| Ruth Schulte | 7 |
| Anthony Fiorito | 8 |
| Bill Forster | 9 |
| Charles Lamont | 10 |
| Leigh Anne Cross | 10 |
| Janet Pavlinic | 12 |
| Richard Halterman | 12 |
| Debbie Schckel | 14 |
| William Henel | 14 |
| Betty Hoff | 15 |
| Caroline Long | 15 |

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|------------------|----|
| Casey Curtin | 19 |
| Thomas Long | 26 |
| Bertina Bradford | 26 |
| Doris Henel | 28 |
| Ethel Steiniger | 28 |

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



Doris Stamer sets up for our Fall Rummage Sale

SET UP - Wednesday, October 12 – 9:30 a.m.

We always need help when we set up. Please give us a little of your time and we will certainly appreciate it. If we do not finish setting up, we will continue on Thursday at 9:30 a.m..

WHERE - Epworth Hall, downstairs

WHEN - Friday, October 14 – 9:00 to 1:00 p.m

Saturday, October 15 – 9:00 to Noon

We need rummage! Please bring to Epworth Hall, men, women and childrens clothing, linens, shoes, jewelry, white elephant items in good condition, toys, and soft covered books (NO HARD COVER OR MAGAZINES).

Please do not bring us left-over items from yard sales – if they did not sell there, they will not sell here!

WHAT A HAPPY DAY JULY 31, 2010 WAS FOR THE HORSCH FAMILY!
EMMA GRACE DUDEK WAS BAPTIZED AND FAMILY AND FIENDS WERE PRESENT TO HELP CELEBRATE.



WHAT A GREAT FAMILY!



REV. RAMOS CONDUCTS THE BAPTISM OF EMMA GRACE DUDEK.



yearly charge church conference

On Wednesday, October 19th the following schedule will be followed:

- 5:30 – Parsonage inspection
- 6:30 – Pastor / PARISH Meeting
- 7:30 PM – Church Conference

our annual charge conference will be held in AldersGate hall conducted by our new district superintendent, rev. dr. jisun kwak. our conference will be a church conference and all members of our congregation are invited to attend.

please reserve this date. it is important that we have a good turn-out. all members are eligible to vote for the officers and program for 2012.

we look forward to seeing you. if you need transportation, please call the secretary – doris henel, 486-5571.

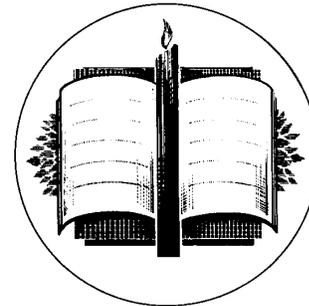


BOARD OF TRUSTEES

an update about the repairs of the parsonage – the asbestos has been removed and the repairs of the parsonage are progressing. we are pleased with the work that is being

done and I look forward to it being completed.

We are converting the heating system from oil to gas. because the heating system was completely destroyed the conversion will be covered by our insurance. the cost of removing the tank from the yard will not be covered, but the law requires that it be removed. we will keep you posted as the work is progressing.



BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Bible Study Classes are being held every Tuesday at 10:30 a. m. in the Youth Room. They are being conducted by Rev. Ramos and our Certified Lay Speaker, Bob Carhart. All are invited to attend.



ADVANCED NOTICE ABOUT OUR FAIR

Louise Beyer, assisted by Lorraine Carhart, will chair the annual Christmas Church Fair. It will be the Saturday before Thanksgiving, the same date we have had it for many years – November 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We need new items, Christmas items, white elephant for the gym, baked goods, and handmade items. Telephone calls will be made when we get closer to the date and slips will be in the Sunday bulletins that can be filled out and put in the offering plate. Let's have another successful Fair!!



BITS AND PIECES

MaryJane Koslosky has been a traveler and is continuing to be one. In September she spent two weeks in Maryland visiting a long, time good friend. The end of September and part of October she and a friend toured the country on the way to Colorado where they were visiting a daughter of her friend. They expected to be gone about a month. And what a beautiful country they will see!!

Mary Barnes was happy to have Faith Halterman visiting her for about 5 days. On one of the days she was here, both Mary and Faith joined the FOREVER YOUNG group as they lunched at the BARG in South Amboy. There were 13 of them and as a bonus, they sat through the earthquake while they ate. The building really did shake but after a short time, everything was back to normal.

Doris Henel has spent a number of weekends with her friend, Bobbie, who sold her home in Elizabeth and now lives in Leisure Village East. For those that need her address it is:

Mrs. Barbara Bogard
Leisure Village East
905A Dumbarton
Lakewood, N . J. 08701
Telephone: 1-732-477-4511

Her new home is lovely, and although, she misses her friends, she is very content in her new location.

Robin Mower, daughter of Bobbie Bogard, transported by car, her mother, and Doris Henel, to visit with Charles Lamont and his daughter, Jayne. They stayed overnight and the next day traveled to Nellie & Russ Lyles in Virginia and had dinner with Nellie but were surprised to find that Russ was in the hospital with heart failure. The next morning they visited Russ for about an hour and found him looking better and very glad to see them.

Then on to Bobbie's other daughter, Bobbee, in Virginia Beach and the final day with their 3rd friend, Myrt Marshall in Manasses, Va. for lunch

and home again. These are people they visited whenever they went to Florida, but since they no longer drive there, Robin fills in and they get to see family and old friends.

Congratulations to Debbie Horne, daughter of Kathryn Gmitter. At first it wasn't good news – when Sherring and Merck combined, a lot of good people were laid off – and Debbie was one of them. However, she did get another job although, it was a temporary one. But they knew a good employee when they saw one, and she has now been hired permanently. Good for you, Debbie!



We are pleased to welcome Hannah Hightower, our new organist/director to our church. Hannah lives in New York and travels to our church each Sunday. She has an extensive background in music and we are very pleased to have her working with our choir. Please stop and greet and welcome her when you see her on Sunday mornings.



Lourdes Kozar and Ethel Steiniger with church friends – Bob Carhart, Norman Carhart, Rev. Ramos and Charles Ettel taken following a church worship service.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone for the contributions they made to a number of very worthwhile causes. In some cases you added money to the jar that sat on the piano and in others, you contributed with checks and cash. The following money was raised and sent to the Conference to be added to the money collected from other United Methodist Churches.

- Tornado Help - \$65.00 (May Collection)
- Tornado in Joplin - \$115.00 (June Collection)
- Airplane for Africa - \$475.00 (August Collection)

We appreciate your concern for those beyond our own area and we are proud of the Methodist Churches commitment to others in need.

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THANK YOU TO OUR NEW TEACHERS!

We are pleased to welcome Lisa McCracken Marcelino and her husband as our new teachers.

We welcome all children ages 3 to 12 and encourage you to bring them to classes that start on October 2nd during our worship service from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

We also will have a Church Hour Nursery during the church service for younger children. Joy Hinko will take care of them when there are young children in church.

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BIBLE STUDY IN THE YOUTH ROOM

Every Tuesday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. we will gather in the Youth Room for a Bible Study on the Beatitudes. They are led by Rev. Ramos and Bob Carhart. Come join us!



We visited Russ Lyles in the hospital



Doris Henel and Bobbie Bogard stop in Manassas, Va. for lunch with Myrt Marshall

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INFORMATION FROM THE LINDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY

All churches have received information and applications for Linden Public Housing....**The deadline for applying is September 29th** and all instructions are attached to the application. There will be a lottery drawing on October 5th at the John T. Gregorio Towers, 1125 Dill Ave., Linden from 9 to 4 p.m. 500 applications will be chosen and put on a waiting list. Please see or call Doris Henel (486-5571) to receive your application. We just received this information, and there is very little time to apply. Linden residents are given preference.

OCTOBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2 9-Choir 10:30 – Worship Ser. STEWARDSHIP MOMENT KICKOFF</p>	<p>3 7-Board of Trustees (D.Beyer,T.Henel, W.Hanns,J.Stamer,B. Losyk,C.Ettel, G.Baldwin) 9:30-Fencing Sch.</p>	<p>4 10:30-Bible Study 11:30-United Meth. Women-luncheon at D.Henel 4:30-Weight Watchers 9:30 – Fencing Sch In Gym</p>	<p>5 4:30-Fencing Sch. In Gym</p>	<p>6 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 9:30-1:30 Fencing School <hr/>8 9:30—1:30 Fenc. Sch.</p>
<p>9 9 - Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Worship Ser STEWARDSHIP MOMENT</p>	<p>10 . 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch.</p>	<p>11 19:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30 -Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch</p>	<p>12 9:30-SET UP RUMMAGE 4:30-9:30 – Fencing School</p>	<p>13 9:30-SET UP RUMMAGE IF NECESARY 4:30-9:30-Fencing School</p>	<p>14 9 TO 1 PM RUMMAGE SALE OPEN TO PUBLIC</p>	<p>15 9 TO NOON RUMMAGE SALE OPEM TO PUBLIC 9:30-1:30 – Fencing School in gym</p>
<p>16 9 AM - Choir 10:30-Worship Service STEWARDSHIP MOMENT</p>	<p>17 GATEWAY NORTH RESOURCES DAY AT EPWORTH UMC 4:30-9:30-Fencing School</p>	<p>18 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch</p>	<p>19 CHURCH CONF. 5:30-Parsonage Insp 6:30-Pastor/Parish 7:30-Church Conf. All invited 4:30-9:30-Fenc.Sch.</p>	<p>20 4:30-9:30-Fenc.Sch</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 9:30-1:30-Fencing School in gym</p>
<p>23 9 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 -Worship Service STEWARDSHIP MOMENT COFFEE HOUR</p>	<p>24 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School</p>	<p>25 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch</p>	<p>26 4:30-9:30 Fencing School</p>	<p>27 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9:30-1:30-Fencing Sch</p>
<p>30 9:00 - Choir 10:30- Worship Service</p>	<p>31 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch</p>					