

Neighborhood

LAY LEADER LINES

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Joyce Korley	1
Austin Magnus	3
John Pako	3
Anand Gamadia	4
Lauren Magnus	5
Bruce Donohue	9
Erin Jones	9
Pamela White	11
Angeleena Ghaly	11
Lucas Gaunt	13
Patricia Iko	13
Amanda Vacchio	13
Jane Gregor	14
Michael Spitzer	14
Nana Ankrah	15
Jenna Spitzer	16
Janice Ploskon	16
Neal Jurgensen	20
Lyana Mitchell	20
Mason Mitchell	20
Jean Wilmot	20
Robert Bennett, Jr	21
Ken Persing	25
Judith Acob	26
Earl Getty	26
Alicia Hernandez	29

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Manny and Mary Frank	3
Edward and Christine Dill	7
Neal and Lisa Jurgensen	7
John and Alicia Hernandez	19
Karen and Thomas Cerabone	23

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Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus!

In a few short days, we will once again journey thru Holy Week as we celebrate our Lord's triumphant march thru Jerusalem, the preparation of Maundy Thursday, his Passion on Friday and the overwhelming joy of the Risen Lord on Sunday! Please take the time to attend our services during this most important week in our Christian life. For those of you who do not know how our altar comes to life during our Church seasons, do not look further than our Pastor! She is so creative and spirit filled and her love of God is evident with the time and effort she puts into the planning and setup of our Altar, thank you Reverend Kim!

Our monthly luncheon at Perkins was well attended and we all enjoyed our time and the Church received 10% of our bill to boot! What a great way to fund raise and fellowship! Here are the dates for the rest of the Church year are as follows: 4/29, 5/27 and 6/24. We will break for the summer and resume in September with the date being announced in the August newsletter. This is a great opportunity for our shut ins, who normally cannot attend Church, to fellowship with the rest of their Church family. Rides can be provided, just contact myself or the Church office. Hope to see you there. Happy Easter everyone!

Love in Christ,
 Betty Curnow, Lay Leader

Easter Week Schedule

Palm Sunday- April 5th 10:00 AM
 Maundy Thursday-April 9th 7:30 PM
 Good Friday-April 10th 7:30 PM
 Easter Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

WORDS ON WORSHIP

The season of Lent was ushered in by our special Ash Wednesday Service and continued on in the ensuing Sundays in March. Our special altar arrangements have offered avenues for contemplation and preparation for the cleansing and healing that the season brings to us as sinners and believers. Rev. Kim has truly offered her creative gifts and talents to depict the renewal and revival that transform God's people from brokenness to wholeness and unity with God. We pray that you have been blessed by the visual and other sensory inputs our worship experiences have attempted to impart to the congregation.

As of this writing, our Contemporary Service still has to be experienced. The Committee has worked hard to bring the messages of the Old and the New Testaments about GRACE and GOD'S SACRIFICIAL LOVE. The Youth Group will lead us in worship on the last Sunday of March.

Lenten Wednesday Services with the other area United Methodist Churches have taken place at Milltown UMC, First UMC in Sayreville, Monroe Community Church and Conklin UMC in South River. Service will continue on April 1 at Aldersgate UMC in East Brunswick.

We do appreciate the Easter Lily orders and would like to thank those who donated the palms. As part of our yearly tradition, we will celebrate Palm and Passion Sunday as one (April 5th) to usher in the Holy Week. Special services have been planned for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (April 9th and 10th) at 7:30 p.m. Easter services will be at 8:00 a.m. and 10 a.m. on April 12th. As there are preparations that need to be done, we request for your help and support in the stripping of palms on April 4th and the set-up of the Lily Cross on April 11th at 10 a.m. on both days.

As Easter people, let us be reminded of the steps that are necessary to revival. As author Pat Robertson wrote in his book, everything starts with humility. Then there is prayer followed by seeking God's face. After turning from our wicked ways, we need to unite with the Holy Spirit and persevere in our ministry. The same process applies in our Sunday and everyday worship. We do not need the revival only because of the season but because our faith should be practiced everyday, moment by moment. Everyday easters will signify our redeemed status and our responsibility to God as a response to the everyday grace and love we enjoy. Looking forward to eternal life, we press on to serve and glorify our risen Lord.

In His grace and love,
Tess Camba

SPEAKING OF OUR MEMBERS....

Tess Camba was recently hospitalized and is home again. Prayers are needed for Tess as she continues going through tests.

Candance Chien is our new organist. Welcome Candance!

Helen Hong recently had gall bladder surgery and is recovering. Pray for Helen for complete healing.

Helen Quackenbush celebrated her 90th birthday on March 12th. She also was named Volunteer of the Year 2009 by the Middlesex County Fair Association and will receive her award on August 3rd, the opening day of the Fair. Congratulations Helen!

Polly Rhodes was recently hospitalized and is now back home. Keep Polly in your prayers.

Thank you - Janet Davala for the wooden cross which she made and is being used at the altar during Lent. Rev. Kim for decorating the altar and the cross so beautifully. Irene Ritz for keeping the web site up to date with all the changes that Rev. Kim makes weekly at the altar.

Do you have any news to share with our church family? Please submit your news to Claudia Hunter or Karen Gaunt in the church office.

PAM WHITE'S RETIREMENT

January 1st was not only the start of a new year, but the start of a new chapter in my life. After 36 and 1/2 years I retired from teaching. My years here in the Old Bridge Township schools has been very rewarding. I started teaching elementary instrumental music right out of college. I was assigned to 6 schools. During the next 10 years I taught in all of the 13 elementary schools, 2 middle schools and Cedar Ridge High School. I was then assigned to teach classroom or vocal music in Southwood School, Grissom, Schirra, Shepard, Cooper and Memorial. I have worked with many wonderful people over the years and have had the privilege of teaching many of the children of Old Bridge. The last few years I have been able to work side by side with some of my former students. What a wonderful honor for a teacher to see her students succeed in the same career that you love so well.

A wonderful retirement party was held at the Palm Plaza catering hall in Old Bridge on December 10, 2008. It was well attended by family and friends. I truly felt like a queen that night. I really enjoyed my tenure in Old Bridge, but I am looking forward to a new way of life - retirement.

“Do You Love to Tell the Story?”

In April, the Lenten season leads us into Holy week and we have four major festivals within eight days, going from the excitement of Palm Sunday, through the peace of Maundy Thursday, to the pain of Good Friday, and ending with the joy of Easter Sunday. With Easter ahead of us, Easter lilies come as an Easter symbol. Looking like trumpets, they tell the world that Jesus is risen. Christ is risen indeed! This ancient Easter greeting heralds the defining story of our faith. We are heirs to God’s great promise in Christ and are called to continue the ministry of Jesus in our daily lives. God invites all to share in the new life of Easter. In the words of Isaiah (25:6-9), God will give good things and destroy death for “all people.” In what ways will you tell the astonishing story that God invites all people to live in His reign?

The resurrection of Jesus, who died so that all people might live, shows the world that he triumphed over sin, death, and the power of the devil. By rising from the dead, he freed all people from their sins, so that they could have rich and full lives now on earth and through eternity with God in heaven. Christ the Lord is risen indeed! We will hear the stories again on Easter Sunday: the disciples and their struggles to remain faithful, about Mary and the others weeping, preparing their Lord for burial. We know their stories. The story, however, does not stop. In Acts, Peter argues passionately that the story is for all people, not just for Israel. Peter was right, for there are millions of others who have made Jesus’ story their story.

We are all invited and called to make Jesus’ story our story. The message of Easter is that God’s love is for all of us. The journey of faith is not always an easy one. However, God promises his faithful presence with us, guiding us and giving us strength, peace and hope.

Christ is risen for all, indeed!
Is this your story that you want to tell everyone on Easter Sunday? Or this is a habitual greeting. When we are thankful that Jesus died for us and excited for his resurrection, it can be our own story. Let us make Jesus’ story our story and tell the story to the world.

Rejoice In the Risen Lord,

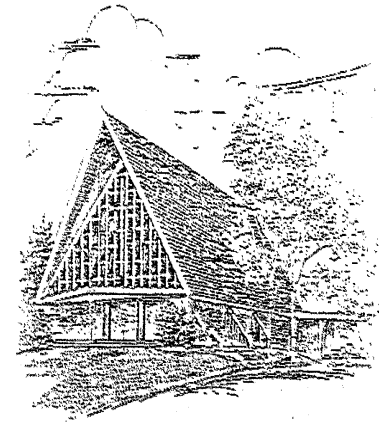
Heasun Kim, Pastor

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The Simpson Speaker

April 2009



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<http://www.simpsonumc-oldbridge.com>

Rev. Dr. Heasun Kim, Pastor

OUTREACH

COMMUNION

Our offering for April will go to UMCOR, in support of the Domestic Disaster Response, advance #901670. UMCOR is one of the first responders when disaster strikes, mobilizing aid to the afflicted areas as soon as possible. Our support will help them remain ready to go at a moments notice.

ELIJAH'S PROMISE

Our next date is **Tuesday, April 7th**. Last month was a little hectic but we did manage to get the meal prepared and served. Elaine at Elijah's expressed to me that we really help and do a great job, even when our numbers are low! Elaine shared that all groups are not as conscientious about helping her clean up. I was so proud of our Church when she said we help her, personally, a lot! Elaine has to stay and make sure everything is cleaned and ready to go for the next day and some groups just leave after serving and do nothing to make Elaine's job easier. Our mission is to help everyone, not just the person coming in for the meal and I am so glad I can say Simpson does just that! I give thanks to God for all of you, my wonderful Church family! I hope to see you there!

EASTER BASKETS

We will be delivering baskets on Palm Sunday as usual this year. What is unusual is the increase in size of the families we have, and that all the families from the Township are new to us. So I thank you all in advance for our generous hearts and know that the families will be so blessed to receive your gifts of food to help them celebrate Jesus's resurrection! Wishing you all a wonderful Easter celebration!

GOT THE SHOE BLUES?

Have shoes that you just don't wear or have gone out of your fashion style? The Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community needs shoes. They need men's, women's and children's shoes of all sizes, **no winter boots**, please. Feel free to ask your co-workers, neighbors and friends too! If there is a large enough quantity, they will arrange for a pick-up. This is a great way to clear your closet of shoes you will never wear and be sure they are going to someone who really needs them. I will put a box by the back door for the shoes to be put in, thanks so much.

CHANGE FOR L.I.F.E.

Our change mission continues and I am grateful for everyone's spare change. You are making a tremendous difference in so many lives, can you believe how easy it is to do? Just empty your pocket change in the jar provided and you have the potential to save so many lives. For those who do not have a jar, there are extras by the window in the hallway. Thanks so much for your support!

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Anastasio, Missons/Outreach

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

March was a good month for the youth a Simpson. In March we held an Easter Candy Fundraiser, attended a Christian concert by the band AIM FC, and led a Sunday Worship Service.

April promises to be another rewarding month, as of the writing of this article the April calendar is being worked, but looks like this:

**Sat Apr 4-Sun Apr 5- Christian concert featuring the band
"Third Day" and lock in at the church**

Sun Apr 5- Prepare and deliver Easter baskets

Sun Apr 26- "Inside Out" plays in the worship service

"Inside Out" will continue practicing this month. The practice dates and times have not yet been set as of the writing of this article.

There will also be a High School devotions class in the youth group room Sunday mornings from 9:15am-10am.

Also, please check out the music library in the youth group room and sign out a CD of your choosing.

Throughout the year the youth group participates in events focusing on missions, fun, fellowship, and fundraising, all the while growing in your faith.

The youth group is open to anyone in grades 7-12, and you don't have to be a member of Simpson UMC to be a member of the youth group. Friends are welcome as well!

If you have any questions or comments about the youth group, please feel free to contact Scott by email at RU1989@aol.com or by phone at 732-679-5361.

Scott Hunter and Ashley Spitzer

RUTGERS BASKETBALL FUNDRAISER

The basketball season is over and I want to again thank everyone who gave their time and efforts during this season. It was greatly appreciated! I will announce the totals for this fundraiser once I have them.

Scott Hunter

RUTGERS FOOTBALL

As most of you are aware, the RU football stadium is being expanded and by next year the capacity of the stadium will increase by several thousand people. As a result, we will need to have more people selling programs per game. To discuss this, and look into ways we can properly staff the games and to best cover the stadium, we will have a meeting of everyone who has sold programs in the past or plans to sell them in the future. The meeting will be **Sunday April 19** immediately after church. Please mark your calendars and plan stay for the meeting on that Sunday.

Scott Hunter

PERKINS FUNDRAISER

We have started a new fundraising program at Perkins Pancake House. This program is very easy and very flexible. Simply go to either the Perkins on Rt. 18 in East Brunswick or the one in Eatontown, **at any time on any day you want**, and Perkins will contribute 10% of your check back to Simpson. Just present a coupon to the cashier as you pay your bill. That is all you have to do. The coupons can be found at either door of the sanctuary at church. This is a fundraiser where the money does not go back to Simpson. This fundraiser goes directly towards saving a young child's life. All the money raised from this Perkins fundraiser will go towards the church's sponsorship of our child Fabricio through Compassion International. So, basically, every time you eat a meal at Perkins, you are literally feeding a starving child! Please tell your friends and family members about this and pick up coupons to give to them as well.

Scott Hunter

GIFT CARD UPDATE

At the end of the first quarter of 2009, we are on track with our record-breaking year last year....thanks to all those who are faithfully exchanging their money for gift cards for Shop Rite, Pathmark and A & P. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we surpassed last year's profits of \$ 5,300? It's so easy to do and Simpson realizes a 5% profit for every dollar you spend doing your food shopping !!
Pay me a visit every Sunday after services in the Chapel.
Anita Fuzesi, Program Coordinator

Planning Continues for Education and Fellowship Addition!

As we continue to prepare for our Education and Fellowship Addition, the Facilities Planning Committee is working with RSI for guidance and expertise on our capital funding campaign. The capital program we are beginning with RSI's counsel is called "Forward". Our capital funding campaign for the Education and Fellowship Addition will dovetail with our existing annual stewardship program.

The Facilities Planning Committee is organizing a capital funding campaign leadership team from our congregation. This team will work closely with the Facilities Planning Committee and with Rev. Darrel Copeland from RSI. Each member of our capital funding leadership or "Forward" team, will receive training and additional information from Rev. Copeland later in April.

We are very excited about this next step in the planning process for our future ministry. And we are even more excited about how a new education and fellowship addition will allow SUMC to grow many aspects of our ministry — youth programs, Christian education for children and adults, contemporary worship, evening programs and dinners, and other forms of community outreach, just to name a few! This is a very exciting time for our church as we plan together to keep growing our ministry!

Yours in His Name,

Frank Kardashian and Jessica Stehr

Facilities Planning Committee and Forward Team Co-Chairs

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The next meeting of the UMW will be on April 14th, 7:30PM. Our March meeting we enjoyed the service of the Day of Prayer & Self Denial. It was a service of faith and service to God. The District Leadership Training was held during this month at Milltown UMC. Attending was Betty Curnow, Ginny DeGraw, Helen Hong and myself. We learned there are some changes in the by-laws of the UMW. The possible addition or changes to our own unit was discussed at our meeting. It was decided upon to take some time to study by our own unit and will be taken up in the future. An Easter Card was signed by all of us to send to our World Vision girl, Claudia. A letter was received from her, letting us know latest news of her family. Don't forget our Strawberries and More scheduled for June 27th. By the time this is read you will have bought your soup and we want to thank all who helped add to our soup for sale. In the sorrow in approaching days of the end of Lent to Easter, we must all dwell on the sorrow of Jesus to deliver us the salvation with giving up His life. Pray for the entire world today, as we are the ones to carry on the legacy of Christ.

In Christ, Marguerite Ruquet