

**SIMPSON SPEAKER**  
**JANUARY 2010**  
**“Committed by Faith, We Build and Grow”**

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**Rev. Dr. Heasun Kim, Pastor**

**New Year's Prayer**

My prayer for all of you is that you have a very blessed new year! I greet all of you with Paul's words: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

New Year is the time to bid farewell to the old year and welcome the coming year. It is the time to forget and get past memories that are no longer useful or worth pondering upon. It is the time for new beginnings and new starts in life. The New Year has a message for each one of us. The coming of a new year is a time to take stock and look to the future with hope. We make resolutions, develop projects, and follow new dreams. Above all else, we hope to live life to the fullest and spread joy to those around us. Like each of us, our church is constantly assessing its heritage while moving forward. The past year has been a time of accomplishment and celebration. Working together, our members have made Simpson a better church. In the New Year, we will build on these successes, embracing the challenges and opportunities ahead. God has blessed our church abundantly. Yet the harvest is plentiful and God needs your labor (Matthew 9:37-38).

Biblically January begins with a rough journey to visit the Christ child. January 6<sup>th</sup> is the Epiphany. On this 12<sup>th</sup> day after Christmas the church remembers the visit of the magi to the Christ child. According to the gospel of Matthew, sages from the East came to Jerusalem seeking the child. They had observed a new star rising and followed it to find the newborn king of the Jews. During the Season after the Epiphany, which lasts from January 6 until the beginning of Lent, the church focuses on making Christ known to the world, reading stories of call, prophecy, and discipleship.

With all that we wish and hope, for Christians, New Year's Day is a time to listen to God's voice and renew our commitment to Jesus and his ministry. January often promises a vision of a better year ahead. The year in front of us seems apparently as clear and clean as a new year's calendar. As the children of God, our intention for a new year is to remain faithful to our call to ministry.

In this Season of Epiphany, I pray that my brothers and sisters of Simpson experience the Epiphany and faithfully continue their journey in Christ!

Christ's Hope,  
*Heasun Kim, Pastor*

## **LAY LEADER LINES**

During the Advent season, on Wednesday evenings, we shared service and fellowship with our sister Churches, Aldersgate, Spotswood and Monroe. At each service, we took a special offering, which will be given to the Annual Conference to support the pension funds of United Methodist ministers in other countries. This free will offering totaled over \$1000 dollars and I would like to thank Simpson for their support of these services and their generosity!

Now that the Advent season has come to a close, we will resume our Wednesday morning and evening Bible studies. I hope everyone who is able will come out and learn more about God's word. January 6<sup>th</sup> is the date we will start again. Hope to see you there!

Our next Ladies Luncheon is Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. As always, anyone who needs a ride please contact Karen in the Church office and we will arrange a ride for them. We will meet at noon at Denny's on Route 18 northbound in East Brunswick.

Love in Christ,  
Betty Curnow, Lay Leader

## **WORDS ON WORSHIP**

As of this writing, there are only a few days left in the year 2009 and the year 2010 is slowly creeping upon us, making us reflect on how we did our talks and our walks in our faith journeys. For most of us, the year had been both challenging as well as rewarding in terms of our worship experiences. Most importantly, what mattered was that we were in thanksgiving and praises for all the things that came our ways, for in our hearts dwelt (and continues to dwell) our dear Lord Jesus Christ.

As a tradition, the early December services were geared towards preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was especially meaningful when we started the month with Communion during our Church Conference. Likewise, the hanging of the ornaments in the Christmas tree and the symbolic giving of monetary gifts for special missions made the experience truly reflective of our thanksgiving to the Lord that was to come. We celebrated the third Sunday of Advent in our respective places as the weather conditions prevented us from meeting in the sanctuary. Yet, we knew in our hearts that we were there in spirit and truth. The Christmas Eve Services will be a celebration of joy, peace, love and hope for the coming year. As of this writing, we still have to conduct the Family Service at 7:30 p.m. and the Traditional Service at 11:00 p.m. These services will surely keep us in the spirit of the season as the coming of the Messiah is commemorated. A special Contemporary Service was also planned to end the year and to usher in the new.

The Wednesday evening services with other area United Methodist churches also proved to be meaningful and uplifting. We were blessed to hear from Pastors of the three host churches and music from the teams of musicians and singers whose messages point to the reason for the season. I would like to thank each and everyone who have helped the Worship Committee this year including the communion helpers, ushers, acolytes, choir and its director, organist, bands and musical participants, liturgists, preachers (local and guests) and prayer warriors. My special thanks go to our secretary and sexton for their contributions in the preparations for each service and to Rev. Kim for her leadership, guidance and inspiration.

Planning and preparations are underway for the month of JANUARY. We will celebrate Epiphany Sunday on the 3rd, Wesley Covenant and Leadership Recognition Sunday and Baptism of the Lord on the 10th, Human Relations Day on the 17th, Contemporary and Ecumenical Sunday on the 24th and Youth-Led Service on the 31st. We also want to remind you that Monday Evening Services will start on the 4th and will continue to run every Monday at 7:00 p.m. These services will provide the worship opportunity for those who are unable to participate in the Sunday worship services.

We in the committee appreciate your active participation in every worship event and pray that we may continue to glorify our living God through our acts and words of worship as we begin year 2010. If you have any idea or suggestion as to how we can better serve your needs and/or our God, please let Rev. Kim or any of the Committee members know. We are always in need of liturgist volunteers and singers for the Choir. Let us welcome the New Year with great anticipation for more meaningful, thankful and worshipful experiences, in the name of the Father who led His people to the Promised Land, in the name of the Son who led His disciples to Calvary and in the name of the Holy Spirit who leads us to every land where we can share God's love and message of Salvation, all for the purpose of the Great Commission, now and forever. Amen.

In His grace and love,  
Tess Camba

## **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

## **RU Basketball Program Fundraiser-**

Another season of Rutgers basketball is underway, which means we have more opportunities to sell programs and raise money for Simpson!

For those of you who are not aware of this fundraising program, Rutgers University has given Simpson UMC the sole privilege of selling programs at all of the home basketball games for both the men's and women's teams. We arrive at the Rutgers Athletic Center 2 hours before game time and sell the programs through half time. In return for our time and efforts, Rutgers pays us 15% of the total sales from the programs.

The home schedule for January is:

**Sat Jan 2- women (game time 2:00pm; we arrive 12:00pm)**

**Sat Jan 2- men (game time 8:00pm; we arrive 6:00pm)**

**Wed Jan 13- men (game time 7:30pm; we arrive at 5:30pm)**

**Sat Jan 16- women (game time 2:00pm; we arrive at 12:00pm)**

**Wed Jan 20- men (game time 8:00pm; we arrive 6:00pm)**

**Sat Jan 23-women (game time 2:00pm; we arrive 12:00pm)**

**Sat Jan 30-men (game time 6:00pm; we arrive at 4:00pm)**

Please see me or contact me at [RU1989@aol.com](mailto:RU1989@aol.com) or by phone at 732-679-5361 if you are interested in this exciting fundraising opportunity or if you have any questions. There are also sign-up sheets in the Church hallway.

Scott Hunter

## **OUTREACH**

### ***COMMUNION OFFERING***

Our January 2010 offering will go to support the Feed the Children organization located in Oklahoma City, OK. This wonderful mission is committed to feeding the hungry. Wilmington, Ohio was a recent recipient of 12 tractor-trailers of food to help the town, devastated by the economy downturn. As we have supported this mission for a number of years, it is good to know that our support is helping families make ends meet. Please help keep this mission on track and saving lives! Thank you for your support!

### ***ELIJAH'S PROMISE***

Our next date is Tuesday, January 5th. As we enter into the heart of winter, Elijah's will count on us more than ever to be there and to support them as they continue to provide hot, warming, nutritious meals to many who rely on Elijah's on a daily basis. The numbers of people who need Elijah's services continues to increase and this makes our service even more critical! Please come and join us as we share the wonderful work of Elijah's with those who need it! Hope to see you there!

### ***CHANGE FOR L.I.F.E.***

Please continue to collect your spare change and bring it into Church so we can keep on fighting hunger and poverty, one family at a time through Heifer International. It is amazing how our coins add up and when pooled together, make such a difference in someone's life.

### ***PANTRY***

SOP, SOP!!! This means SAVE OUR PANTRY! Ok, it is not that bad but truthfully, our once over flowing pantry is now pretty empty! This is a good thing in the sense that we have helped many people with the food we had collected. It is now time to restock the shelves so we can continue to be there for everyone in need. Here are some of the items we need: Pasta and Sauce, Rice, Boxed Potatoes, Macaroni and Cheese, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Hot and Cold Breakfast Cereals, Tuna, canned vegetables and soups, canned meats/stew/chili and any other food items that do not need to be refrigerated. We are grateful for anything you can donate to help our community stay fed!

Wishing you all a happy, healthy 2010! May God Bless all of you!  
Respectfully submitted, Debbie Anastasio

## **ADULT EVENING BIBLE STUDY RESUMES...**

Wednesday evening January 6<sup>th</sup> 2010, we will begin CS Lewis' volume "The Horse and His Boy". Everyone is welcome to join in even if you have missed out on the previous books in the study. When we finish this volume, we will have another movie night with "Prince Caspian". Very exciting reading, discussion, insight and spiritual connections throughout the Narnia Series classics! Please come join us! Contact person, Irene Ritz

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Our Christmas Party/Covered Dish was not held at church this year (no cooking), we gathered at Romeo's on 516 on Tuesday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm for a nice get-together. I was sorry I could not be there, but Claudia filled me in on it and I'm sure everyone enjoyed the evening. The UMW will have Installation of Officers in January and also our Special Recognition Award. Again, I invite all women of the church to join our UMW on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully,  
Ginny DeGraw

## **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

The youth group here at Simpson just finished another exciting and rewarding year in 2009. In December we went caroling with the Sunday school, had our annual Christmas party, and went to NYC to see the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree.

During the month of January we will be transitioning into 2010. As of the writing of this article, the January calendar is still being worked on, so there are no definite dates set as of yet. However, in January we will have our annual beginning of the year youth and parents meetings. The dates and times of these meeting will be announced in church and also through email messages.

“Inside Out” will be in recess until March 2010.

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](mailto:RU1989@aol.com) or by phone at 732-679-5361.

Scott Hunter and Ashley Spitzer

## **YOUNG LIVING PRODUCT FUNDRAISER**

I am extending the fundraiser I held in December with the sale of the ‘Thieves Household’ cleaner. I will continue it through the month of January. For every concentrated bottle of cleaner purchased, I am giving back to Simpson UMC “FORWARD” building fund my commission of \$6. This 14oz. natural cleaner concentrate takes only a capful mixed with 32 oz. of water to produce a clean smelling, non-abrasive all around cleaner. From counters to floors, to bathrooms and woodwork, this bottle will make approximately 48 – 32 oz bottles of

spray cleaner. Retail cost is \$30.50 includes tax and shipping. When all is said and done, it is priced the same as your usual cleaner, ie. Fantastic, Green Works etc.

Irene Ritz – 732-257-7685 <http://YoungLiving.com>

## GIFT CARD NEWS

Start the New Year off right!! Exchange your money for supermarket gift cards before heading to do your grocery shopping!! Make it a New Year's Resolution! Once again January will be set aside as "Scrip Awareness Month". Total profit for 2009 will be announced and each week someone will speak about the benefits of the Gift Card Program for the church. Why not make 2010 the year that you join this Stewardship Program! If you have any questions regarding this program, please see Anita Fuzesi.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOD'S BLESSINGS IN 2010

Anith Fuzesi, Program Coordination

- ❖ **Offering Envelopes/Building Fund Envelopes are available. Please pick them up in church office if needed.**
- ❖ **2010 Altar Flowers – Sign up sheet is located in the hallway. Bouquets are \$10 each. Any questions contact the church office.**

## SPEAKING OF OUR MEMBERS...

**Marie Britton** is in Care One in East Brunswick for rehabilitation. Please keep Marie in your prayers for healing.

**Ginny Degraw** has fractured her sacrum and is in a lot of pain.

**Evan Hart** made the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Old Bridge Basketball Travel Team and was chosen captain for his team. Congratulations Evan!

**Polly Rhodes** is home after being in Raritan Bay Medical Center Old Bridge Division. Please keep Polly in your prayers.

**Ed Yeast**'s stepfather Karl Bickel passed away on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Prayers of comfort, for Ed and his family.

**Miranda Yeats** achieved straight A's on her report card. Congratulations Miranda!!!

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.

## THANK YOU'S

I want to thank everyone at Simpson for all your prayers and cards. My severe pain in my back and legs come three weeks after my fall. I rest most of the time. I had no idea there are so many loving friends at church to help with acolytes, altar and advent candles, altar cloths and poinsettias. My heartfelt thanks to all.

Ginny DeGraw

Dear Congregations,

Rev. Kim and I would like to thank all of you for your generous gifts, cards and kindness throughout this busy season. We appreciate your thoughtfulness! Many blessings to all of you in the coming new year!

In Christ' love,

Heasun Kim and Karen Gaunt.

*Neighborhood*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>JANUARY BIRTHDAYS</u></b></p> <p>Christi Camba 2          Sherry Fasulka 2          Karen Yeats .3          Marilyn Caffrey 8          Kristina Prince 10          Vanessa Veltre 11          Rhona Wilmot 12          Alta Emens 13          Betty Baumann 14          Thomas Michael Jurewicz 15          Lorraine Morris 15          Robert Bennett SR. 16          Rita Lewis 17          Tyler Mataya 20          Jongmi Kim 21          Sue Rhodes 24          Helen Hong 26          John Panariello 26          Matthew Persing 26          Maxwell Gottlieb 27          Julio Carrasquillo 29          Nicholas Panariello 30          Mike Layton 31</p>	<p><b>Old Bridge Funeral Home</b>          2350 Route 516          Old Bridge, NJ 08857          (732)-607-9500          www.oldbridgefh.com          David Hernandez, JR. Manager          NJ Lic. No. JP04626</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WEICHERT, REALTORS</b>  <b>Helen Hong, GRI, REI</b>          Broker/ Sales Representative</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1394 Rt. 9 So. Old Bridge          Ph: 732-525-1550          Email: hh08859@aol.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Circle of excellence Bronze Club 1992-95, 97-02          NJAR Distinguished Sales Club          Weichert Million Dollar Sales &amp; Marketed Club</small></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mary Kay</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sue DeFilippo</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">732-742-4725          suzd2@verizon.net</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BAGEL BOY</b>          2329 ROUTE 516          (JAKE BROWN PLAZA)          732-679-5020          FAX: 732-679-5024          CUSTOM CATERING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RICH <span style="float: right;">BEN</span></p>
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